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African Violet MAGAZINE

September • October 2005 Volume 58 Number 5

AVSA Information

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AFFILIATES: Chapter - $27.00; Council, State, or Region - $27.00.

MEMBERSHIP AND PROMOTION: Send ideas, offers to help, requests for assistance to Carolee Carter, 10947 SW 71st Circle, Ocala, FL 33476. *E-mail* carolee37@earthlink.net.

AFFILIATES: For information on Affiliates or how to organize a chapter, write Bev Promersberger, 7992 Otis Way, Pensacola, FL 32506. *E-mail* promers22@hotmail.com.

AVSA OFFICE: Jenny Daugereau, Office Manager, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702, 1-800-770-AVSA; 409-839-4725; FAX 409-839-4329. Hours: Monday - Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. CST. *E-mail* avsa@earthlink.net.

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CONVENTION PROGRAM: Send special requests for workshop programs or interesting speakers to Linda Owens, Convention Director, 1762 Stemwood Drive, Columbus, OH 43228. If interested in sponsoring a national convention in your area, contact Convention Director.

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ARTICLES BY MEMBERS, COLUMNISTS AND MEMORIALS: Send to Editor.

Please Note: Deadlines - Articles and Columnists: Jan. issue - Oct. 1; Mar. issue - Dec. 1; May issue - Feb. 1; July issue - Apr 1; Sept. issue - June 1; Nov. issue - Aug. 1.

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"AND THE WINNERS ARE...": Send show results to Mary Corondan, 7205 Dillon Ct., Plano, TX 75024.

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QUESTION BOX: Ralph Robinson, P. O. Box 9, Naples, NY 14512. *E-mail* robsviolet@aol.com and Sue Haffner, 3015 Timmy Ave, Clovis, CA 93612-4849. *E-mail* sueh@csufresno.edu

MASTER VARIETY LIST:

MVL SUPPLEMENTS: will be published in the AVM. Send any correction and/or description of new cultivars with hybridizer's name to Joe Bruns, 1220 Stratford Lane, Hanover Park, IL 60130.

MEMBERSHIP CARDS: Sent to Associate Members and New Members only. Renewing members receive card on white protective cover of AVM.

OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE: AVSA Secretary, Nancy Hayes, 9 Cobblestone Rd., Bloomfield, CT 06002-3003.

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QUESTIONS ON HYBRIDIZING: Dr. Jeff Smith, "In Search of New Violets" The Indiana Academy, Ball State University, Muncie, IN 47306. Web site: avsa.org

RESEARCH: Send suggested projects for scientific research or names of interested, qualified, potential research personnel to Dr. Jeff Smith, 3014 W. Amherst Rd., Muncie, IN 47304.

SHOW ENTRY TAGS: 100 - $8.00 postpaid. Order from AVSA Office.

SHOW SCHEDULE APPROVER: For information on Shows, AVSA Awards and Approving Schedules write to: Meredith Hall, P. O. Box 370, Marlin, TX 76661. *E-mail* MHALL@worldissue.com. **Do not send Show Schedules by E-mail - this address is for information ONLY.**

TALLY TIME: Heather Menzel, 135 N. Main St., Yardley, PA 19067. *E-mail* hmenzel@erols.com

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Ma's Lily Pad
Best New Cultivar
2005 AVSA National Show
(2006 Release)
Hybridized by: **Olive Ma Robinson**
Standard

Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

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THE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC. ORG. 1946

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Every attempt is made to keep articles technically correct. Since the growing of fine African violets can be achieved in many ways, the methods and opinions expressed by writers are their own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of AVSA.

President's Message

Dear AVSA Members,

Looking at the weather map, it appears that the entire country has been enduring an extremely hot summer. Aren't we lucky that our plants are indoors and enjoy the same temperatures that we do? When it's too hot to work outdoors, you can always retreat to your plant room.

I hope that all of you enjoyed the new look of the magazine in July. I thought that the additional color really added a lot to the articles. I know that it was the first issue with the new format, and I think that it can only get better.

Jim Owens and Irina Lavrentieva from Russia have been working very hard to put the pictures of the Russian varieties on the website. If you haven't seen them yet, take a minute to do some exploring in the Photograph section of the AVSA website. Click on *Explore the Russian Varieties* and view some really spectacular pictures. The varieties are extremely impressive and make me want to visit Russia just to get some leaves.

The Executive Committee has been invited to hold their fall meeting at the Lone Star Convention in Corpus Christi, TX, Nov. 3 – 5. We have graciously accepted. If anyone has an item for the agenda of our meeting, please contact any member of the Executive committee, and your topic will be addressed at our meeting.

Fall seems to be the season that many states and councils hold their conventions and shows. Be sure to check the Upcoming Events section of the website so that you won't miss any shows in your area. If you are planning to do any traveling this fall, check to see if there are any shows in the areas where you will be. It's always fun to have visitors at the shows, and it's a good way to find new varieties in the sales rooms. I know that when I have visited other areas, I find that they may be growing plants that are rarely grown in my local area. It's always fun to bring home something that no one else in the area has, and then share it with your club members.

Before we know it, we'll be headed for Minneapolis. It's not too early to start saving and reserving the dates. The group there is working very hard to show us a great time, and I know that they want to have a really spectacular show. Start thinking of ways to transport those entries, either by car or plane, so that they will achieve their goal of 1,000 entries.

Happy growing,

Linda

Linda Owens
President, AVSA

Editor's Notes

Ruth Rumsey
AVM Editor
2375 North Street
Beaumont, TX 77702
Email: rrumsey@earthlink.net

I appreciate all of the nice comments about the additional color in the AVM. As I mentioned in the last issue, with the additional color pages available, I hope you will send photos of your own plants for inclusion in the magazine. I would like to have a couple of pages of members' plants in each issue.

Please send slides or photos that you have taken, or if you are taking digital photos, please save them to a CD and mail it to me.

Remember, all photos for inclusion in the AVM must be of the plant ONLY - no ribbons, no other plants, no happy faces, etc.

Thanks to **Maryann Switzer** for answering my request for tips to make growing easier for our members. I hope that more of you will do the same! I always need original articles for the AVM as well. Maryann suggested a reprint of her article "Making a Travel Case for Your Violets" which ran in 1994; and is repeated in this issue (page 54).

As more people join AVSA each day, there may be other articles from past issues that you feel would pass along helpful information to them. Please send me your suggestions.

The gorgeous plant gracing the cover of this issue is 'Ma's Lily Pad', hybridized and grown by **Olive Ma Robinson**, and is the Best New Introduction from the 2005 AVSA National Show. Olive asked me make sure everyone knows that this plant is a release for 2006, as is the Third Best New Introduction, 'Ma's Moody Monday'.

In the July/August issue, I failed to give our **AVSA Official Photographer, Winston J. Goretsky**, credit for the two photos I used to illustrate Bob Clark's article on "Underwater Arrangements" on page 16. Sorry Winston!

Our advertiser **Beverly's Violets and Gifts**, has changed her phone number, information we did not receive in time to make the change in this issue. Please call (907) 338-4510 to get in touch with Beverly. Her ad can be found on the inside back cover.

Remember that the **2005 List of AVSA Judges, Commercial Members, and Affiliated Clubs** is now available on the AVSA Web Site. Email the AVSA Office at avsa@earthlink.net to receive the password you will need for access. If you do not have computer access, please mail one dollar to the AVSA Office with your request for the 2005 list.

The listing of 2006 Convention Specified Awards is on page 21. A new award addition for 2006 is a Collection Award of the AVSA Registered Russian Standard African Violets. This generous award is being given by **Vladimir and Tatiana Kalgin** of Russia. If you have any questions, please contact our Awards chair, **Sue Hoffmann**, by email susan.hoffmann@juno.com, or at 2809 Forest Hills Court, Virginia Beach, VA 23454.

In this issue on page 27, you'll find an article by **Johanna Kolehmainen**, of Finland, addressing "African Violet Conservation and Tourism in Tanga Region, Tanzania". On the color pages that follow, I think you will enjoy the beautiful photographs of the area that is home to species African violets. This project was funded in part by our Boyce Edens Research Fund.

The Annual Library Message is on page 30 of this issue. Newly appointed Library Chair, **Tom Glembocki**, is probably a familiar name to many of you as he produced the DVDs and CDs of past convention shows.

Thanks to **Anne Nicholas**, out-going Library Chair, for the years she devoted to the job. It was truly a pleasure working with you, Anne.

Remember that all Library requests must be made in writing. Please select your top three choices when ordering.

Thanks for the well wishes at the birth of my grandson, **Gavin Michael Rumsey**. The little guy arrived several weeks early, but is home now and doing fine.

Shows and Judges

Bill Foster
Shows and Judges Committee
3610 Gray Drive
Mesquite, TX 75150
Email: 1bpfoster@sbcglobal.net

Hopefully, by the time you read this, I will be walking on two feet again. Kim Barr, Margery Clive, and Ron Davidson have been so good to take care of the plants, mix soil, etc. They will probably expect me to take care of some of the chores now.

Each year some of our judges, after studying hard and taking exams for many years, reach the top of the ladder and become **MASTER JUDGES.** We congratulate the following judges, who in October, will receive their Master Judges Certificates: Jean Bell, Canada, Ann Butler, Connecticut, Mary Corondan, Texas, Grace Davis, Texas, and Carolyn Klein, New York.

Here are a few more questions from the judges' breakfast:

Question: *Is it mandatory for judges to write comments on red and white ribbon exhibits?*

Answer: No, it isn't. However, if time permits, judges ***should*** write comments on these exhibits.

Question: *On the critique sheet, should judges include comments on all the questions (both positive and negative)?*

Answer: Yes, that is what the critique sheet is for. Lack of comments does not help the club. Comment on what is good, but also tell them what is wrong. How else will they know how to improve their show?

Question: *Who is responsible for being sure the totals are added correctly on the collection sheets?*

Answer: The judges. Errors were made on several occasions this year. The schedule approver checks the sheets, and if an error is detected indicating an exhibitor did not receive the correct rosette, the proper rosette will be sent to them.

Question: *In a terrarium, the judges noticed an unnamed, non-blooming African violet hidden among other plants. How should this have been judged?*

Answer: No points would have been deducted for the unnamed, non-blooming African violet, provided the exhibitor also had one blooming violet in the terrarium. It is fine to use a non-blooming African violet. In this class, the African violet is not judged as a separate entity, but as a part of the overall landscape.

We continue to get questions every year such as, "Why do some judges argue that simis and minis should not be selected as best in show", and, "If a standard variegated African violet is selected best in show, shouldn't it also be best standard?"

I don't know the answer to these questions. Judges are able to read, and our Handbook states that the highest scoring plant in the show is the best in show regardless of size. Perhaps when a judge tells you this, you could ask them to show you, in the Handbook, where it states that a semi or mini cannot be best in show. If a standard variegated plant is best it show, it should also be best variegated and best standard. The only exception would be if the award stated that this award is for the best standard with green foliage.

AVSA Judge, Affiliates, and Commercial Members List

The annual listing of AVSA Judges, Affiliates, and Commercial Members will no longer be included as an insert in the September/October African Violet Magazine. However, this valuable information will be available to our membership in two other convenient ways.

For those of you with computer access and email, you may email the office avsa@earthlink.net for a password that you will use to download the list from the AVSA website, www.avsa.org. **DO NOT CALL THE OFFICE FOR THIS PASSWORD. IT WILL ONLY BE GIVEN OUT BY EMAIL.**

If you do not have computer access or email, please send one dollar ($1.00) to the AVSA Office, 2375 North St., Beaumont, TX 77702, to cover postage and handling. The complete list will be mailed to you.

Question Box

Ralph Robinson
P.O. Box 9
Naples, NY 14512
Email: robsviolet@aol.com

Getting this column to our editor is always a challenge this time of year, simply because it's due just after the last of all the spring shows we attend and at the end of our busiest month of shipping. Still, I'd planned to sit down and work on the column well in advance of the deadline. Only one problem-we lost our database as well as the program that we wrote to manage it (the irony is that we lost it when trying to back it up onto a disk)! This meant a week's work in the office that we hadn't planned on (and much of our summer re-keying the data). This is the double-edged sword of technology - the easier it makes our lives, the more we become dependent upon it. We've since rewritten the program (it actually works better); it will take weeks to replace the data that was lost. In the meantime, I'll take this chance to write the column.

As is always the case, we are far too busy to reply to mail (or e-mail), though we do read all of it. Should you want a personal reply, we are more than willing to answer phone calls made during our normal business hours (12-5 pm EST), since we can work and talk at the same time. For those with access to the internet, we can be reached at robsviolet@aol.com or via our web-site at www.violetbarn.com The web-site also contains a wealth of information (and answers to many of your questions).

QUESTION: *What's the best remedy for suckers?*

Answer: A simple question with a simple answer - blooming! A sucker, of course, is an extra growing point (crown), usually appearing as a pair (or pairs) of leaves within the leaf axils beneath the original growing point in the uppermost, center of the plant. Unless this is a trailing variety, on which extra crowns should be encouraged, or a species violet, which you can choose to grow multiple-crowned, these suckers should be removed at first sight. Allowing them to develop not only distorts the symmetry of the plant, but will also delay and/or discourage production of buds and blooms.

Your violet produces suckers as a means of reproducing itself. If unchecked, those suckers will eventually grow into entirely new plants, leaving you with a multiple-crowned plant that will then need dividing. True, it may continue to sporadically bloom, but it will bloom much more if not allowed to sucker. Why? By not allowing your plant to reproduce vegetatively, it must try to reproduce itself sexually by flowering. It will bloom earlier and more, if not allowed to sucker. In our experience, varieties that seem to sucker the most when young also seem to bloom the most once suckers are removed. 'Rob's Jitterbug', is an excellent example. It is a terrific propagator, producing lots of plants, very quickly, from a rooted leaf. Once potted, it grows quickly-and produces lots of suckers! Once they are removed, however, it will produce lots and lots of bloom, continuously, without producing another sucker. It doesn't need to, since it's much too busy blooming! The moral? Suckering can be a good thing, so long as they're removed in a timely way. It's evidence of a vigorous plant with a strong survival instinct. You only need to tell it how!

QUESTION: *What is a chimera, and why is it so expensive? I remember seeing violets with "pinwheel" stripes on the blooms. Are these chimeras?*

Answer: As defined in Webster's Dictionary, a "chimera" is "living structure or organism in which the tissues are of varied genetic origin". What this means, simply, is that our usual way of propagating violets, by leaf cutting, won't necessarily produce plants with the same appearance, since not all leaves have the same genetic make-up. Perhaps none will have the same as the original plant they are removed from. On occasion, they might and will produce plantlets looking like the donor plant, but the likelihood is small-too small for commercial growers to propagate by leaf cuttings efficiently.

Instead, most commercials need to propagate chimeras by a method that gives them the greatest likelihood of producing plants identical to the donor plant, at the least cost. This typically means propagating by suckers, preferably those produced nearest the crown or growing tip of the plant (where we have best evidence of the desired trait of the plant). This involves "decrowning" the plant, removing its top or center leaves. If carefully done, this crown can be rerooted by firmly pressing it into a small pot of fresh, moistened soil, and then placing in a clear, covered container for 3-6 weeks until rooted. Once the main crown is removed, the plant, as a matter of survival, will attempt to produce another crown (or crowns) by suckering.

When large enough, these suckers can be "harvested" and rooted. Many (but not all) of these will develop into plants having the same appearance as the original donor plant. Propagating plants this way is much more costly, in terms of both time and space, with a much smaller yield of plants than by leaf cuttings. This is why chimeras are more expensive. Of course, those varieties that are more difficult to propagate by this means, or yield a smaller number of plants having the desired traits, are even more expensive.

Though varieties having "pinwheel" blooms are often chimeras, they aren't necessarily so. The term "chimera" refers to the genetic make-up of the plant, not the appearance of the bloom. If leaf cuttings don't produce plantlets having the same appearance (genetic makeup) of the donor plant, then it's most likely a chimera. The term is also not limited to flower appearance or habit and can refer to foliage. One obvious example might be 'Rob's Lucky Penny' which has variegated leaves and which can only be successfully propagated from suckers. Rooting leaves of this variety will produce all-green foliaged plants with no variegation.

QUESTION: *I purchased a basket of a Columnea last year. It's growing well, but has become long and stringy and hasn't bloomed in a long time. Should I cut it back or give it more light?*

Answer: Yes and yes. Columneas are relatives of violets, typically with yellow, orange, and/or red-colored tubular blooms that look like "flying fish". They are great plants for windows because they like to either spread or cascade out of a hanging pot or across a windowsill. To look and bloom their best, they should be occasionally pruned to encourage more stems to be produced. This will keep your plant looking full and lush. If never done, you'll eventually see a "bald spot" in the center of the plant where old leaves have fallen off, no new growth has been produced, and there are long, stringy stems that have never been forced to branch.

Columnea, like many plants, tend to bloom from the newest growth-the ends of the stems. Pruning, then, might seem the wrong thing to do. It isn't. What we do is the following. When the plant is young, cut back the stems to one or two nodes above the point where it last was pinched and has branched. Repeat this once or twice again until the plant has developed the full, dense appearance that you want. Then allow it to grow without further pinching or pruning. Now when it blooms, it will produce even more flowers. Why? More stems mean more places from which flowers can be produced! Eventually, you'll want to trim it back again just to keep it looking "fresh", but don't worry, it will grow out and bloom again. Very old plants can eventually become very "woody", making them unattractive, even with proper pruning. These can be repotted into a large pot if you wish, burying some of the bare, old stems when you do so and severely cutting back the plant. Then, let the plant grow out again.

Some *Columnea* are seasonal bloomers and will tend to bloom only once or twice a year. In windows, conditions tend to be very seasonal, at least in our climate and latitude. Besides day length and light intensity, cooler nighttime temperatures tend to trigger production of flowers. Many of our plants in our glasshouse bloom much more prolifically in the spring and fall because of this. Many others, including the one in question, should bloom more or less throughout the year if given consistent, bright (not direct) light. As a general rule, this means a bright east or west-facing window (keep in mind every house is different) or, if grown under artificial light, at a bit closer to the light fixtures than you grow your violets.

QUESTION: *One of my plants has some very fine white powder on the flowers. I though it was dust so I brushed it off. Since then, it reappeared and covers the plant. I don't know what it is. Can you help?*

Answer: Forgive me if this topic has been covered many times before, but it is THE most-asked question that we receive, and merits revisiting. The powder being described is "powdery mildew", a very common problem and, fortunately, one that is not fatal to your plant and easily dealt with. There are a few ways of dealing with the problem, depending upon the number of plants, severity of the problem, and your ambition. To begin, remove any blooms that are covered in mildew, since removing the mildew from blooms is difficult without damaging them. Then you can deal with the foliage. One method is to simply wash the plant. Using room-temperature water and mild soap (like Ivory), suds-up your fingers and massage the leaves, and then rinse. Avoid placing the still-wet plant in direct sun or cold drafts.

Another solution is to use powdered (or "precipitated") sulphur. This can be purchased at most pharmacies, and a for a few dollars you can buy a lifetime supply. This fine, yellow powder works great on eliminating powdery mildew, but you don't want to use so much as to replace the unsightly white powder with an unsightly yellow one. Using a small, soft-bristled brush, apply just a very small amount of sulphur to the surface (and undersides, if needed) of the leaves. Then immediately brush away. Don't use wet or apply to wet leaves since this will make it difficult to remove. The easiest solution, especially for larger numbers of plants, is to spray using a "neem" oil solution. "Neem" is a non-toxic, natural product that is both easy to use and very effective in controlling powdery mildew. Mix the oil in water with a small amount of dish soap, according to the directions on the bottle, and apply to your plants with a fine spray. Except for a handful of varieties, blooms won't be damaged, leaves will actually look cleaner, and the mildew will be gone. You can reapply whenever the mildew reappears. Since powdery mildew is most likely to appear when air is stagnant and temperatures are uneven, try to avoid these conditions in your growing area. Avoid areas where nighttime temperatures are significantly cooler, and provide good air circulation by not overcrowding plants, being sure there is some air movement in the room.

Vintage Violets

Barbara Elkin
Vintage Violets Committee
2855 Gayle Lane
Auburn, CA 95602-9674
Email: bjabar@earthlink.net

AVSA Most Wanted

Apricot Frost
Ava
Aztec Queen
Ballet Ice Palace
Coon Valley
Coral Radiance
Eleanor
Jack Frost
Joey
Mayhem
Midnight Twist
My Desire
Ness' Twinkle Pink
Oh Melba
Plaything
Priscilla
Rebel's Cherries Flambe
Silver Crest
Symmetry in Blue
Twist of Fate

IN MEMORY

DOROTHY TOWNSEND

Dorothy Townsend of Padstow, Australia, passed away June 5, 2005.

For many years, Dorothy had been a member of AVSA, the African Violet-Gesneriad Society of NSW, Inc., as well as many other clubs in Australia. Dorothy and her husband, Reg, were two of the students who undertook the course of study to become judges of African violets in the early days. Dorothy's reputation as a judge was well regarded, and she was invited to judge many shows around Australia.

Dorothy's interest was not only in violets, but the other gesneriads as well. She read and studied all she could about the plants. To further her knowledge and experience, she and Reg attended several AVSA conventions in the United States and imported new varieties on several occasions, sharing leaves and plantlets among club members. She was always happy to talk about plants, help with problems people were having, and was generous with leaves and cuttings.

Dorothy was active in both groups in Sydney, as well as the Central Coast and Hunter Valley groups. She will be sadly missed at all meetings and shows.

AVSA LIFE MEMBERSHIPS

As of July 1, 2005

Life Membership Dues are $600.00

International Life Membership Dues are $750.00

Photo Credit: **Winston J. Goretsky**

Rob's Fiddle Faddle

2nd Best In Show

2005 AVSA National Show

From Best Robinson Collection

Exhibited by: **Kathy Lahti**

Hybridized by: **R. Robinson**

Semiminiature

Registration Report

Joe Bruns
1220 Stratford Lane
Hanover Park, IL 60133
Email: jbruns@qwip.net

The Plant Registration Committee and the Master List of Species and Cultivars Committee have been combined into one, the Plant Registration and Master Plant List Committee. As a consequence, my wife, Janice, is now serving as a member, and I will chair the new committee. Thanks, Janice, for serving the past three years as Chairman. Other members of the committee are Iris Keating, Lynn Lombard, and Dr. Jeff Smith.

A name reservation costs $1.00 and is valid for two years, after which time it may be extended two years for an additional $1.00. Registration of the plant is $5.00 unless completed within the reservation period, in which case the balance is then $4.00. Please make check payable to AVSA.

Dolores Harrington – Fridley, MN

'Dolores' Raspberry Sundae (9406) 4/1/05 (D. Harrington) Semidouble raspberry ruffled star. **Variegated** medium green and cream, heart-shaped, quilted, pebbled, ruffled/red back. **Standard**

*****

Janet Stromborg – Denmark, WI

Allegro Blue Moon (9407) 4/4/05 (J. Stromborg) Single-semidouble pale blue two-tone ruffled star/darker eye. Dark green, heart-shaped, quilted, scalloped/red back. **Standard**

Allegro Careless Love (9408) 4/4/05 (J. Stromborg) Single-semidouble coral two-tone ruffled pansy/darker eye. Dark green, heart-shaped, quilted, glossy, serrated/red back. **Standard**

Allegro Tambourine (9409) 4/4/05 (J. Stromborg) Single chimera white sticktite pansy/lavender stripe. Light green, ovate, pointed, scalloped. **Standard**

*****

Pat Hancock – Middletown, OH

Buckeye Glad Rags (9410) 4/30/05 (P. Hancock) Semidouble lavender-pink ruffled star/purple fantasy. **Variegated** dark green, pink and cream, plain/red back. **Large**

Buckeye Icebreaker (9411) 4/30/05 (P. Hancock) Semidouble rose-pink large ruffled star/wide white band, variable green edge. **Variegated** medium green and cream, plain, quilted. **Large**

Buckeye Leprechaun Charm (9412) 4/30/05 (P. Hancock) Semidouble lavender ruffled pansy/darker top petals, purple band, variable white-green edge. **Variegated** dark green, pink and cream, plain/red back. **Large**

*****

Darryl Hoover – Parker, CO

Baby Darryl (9413) 5/6/05 (D. Hoover) Semidouble-double medium pink pansy/thin green band, white edge. **Variegated** medium green, pink and white, plain/red back. **Semiminiature**

Tiny Dancer (9414) 5/6/05 (D. Hoover) Semidouble-double medium pink pansy/white edge. **Variegated** medium green, pink and white, plain/red back. **Semiminiature**

*****

Patricia Addison – Anchorage, AK

Becky Mae (9415) 5/22/05 (P. Addison) Semidouble-double chimera white ruffled/purple stripe, lavender marking, wide green edge. Medium green, plain, serrated. **Standard**

Clam Power (9416) 5/22/05 (P. Addison) Single-semidouble chimera wine ruffled star/lighter stripe, thin white edge. **Variegated** medium green and white, plain. **Standard**

Ruby Lynne (9417) 5/22/05 (P. Addison) Single-semidouble chimera fuchsia large ruffled star/white stripe, lighter eye. Medium green, plain, pointed. **Standard**

*****

Stanley Ko – Shatin NT Hong Kong

Ko's Faded Photograph (9418) 5/23/05 (S. Ko) Semidouble chimera white pansy/pink stripe, darker eye, blue fantasy. Dark green, plain. **Standard**

*Ko's Luv Whisper (9419) 5/23/05 (S. Ko) Double chimera pink star/white stripe, green edge. **Variegated** medium green and white, ovate, serrated. **Semiminiature**

*Ko's Smile (9420) 5/23/05 (S. Ko) Semidouble chimera white pansy/blue-fantasied dark pink stripe. Dark green, plain. **Standard**

*Ko's Unforgettable (9421) 5/23/05 (S. Ko) Semidouble chimera pink pansy/white stripe, blue fantasy. Medium green, plain. **Standard**

*****

Sharon Holtzman – Newtown, OH

*Newtown Baby Kat (9422) 5/27/05 (S. Holtzman) Single-semidouble medium blue ruffled star. Dark green, heart-shaped, quilted. **Large**

*Newtown Cheeky Robin (9423) 5/27/05 (S. Holtzman) Double light lavender star/purple fantasy. **Variegated** dark green, pink and cream, quilted, serrated. **Standard**

*Newtown Cincy Serenade (9424) 5/27/05 (S. Holtzman) Single pink two-tone sticktite pansy/white frilled edge. Medium green, pointed, quilted, glossy. **Standard**

*Newtown Convention Crazed (9425) 5/27/05 (S. Holtzman) Double pink star/purple fantasy. **Variegated** dark green and cream, serrated/red back. **Standard**

*Newtown Crocodile Tears (9426) 5/27/05 (S. Holtzman) Single white sticktite pansy. **Variegated** medium green and white, pointed, serrated. **Standard**

*Newtown Deli Kat (9427) 5/27/05 (S. Holtzman) Double fuchsia star. Medium green, heart-shaped, quilted. **Large**

*Newtown Flittermouse (9428) 5/27/05 (S. Holtzman) Single light pink sticktite pansy. **Variegated** medium green and white, serrated. **Standard**

*Newtown Gertrude Morabito (9429) 5/27/05 (S. Holtzman) Double dark blue star/white frilled edge. **Variegated** dark green, pink and white, heart-shaped, quilted. **Large**

*Newtown Grape Suzette (9430) 5/27/05 (S. Holtzman) Single dark blue star/green frilled edge. Dark green, quilted, glossy, ruffled/red back. **Large**

*Newtown Heartmender (9431) 5/27/05 (S. Holtzman) Single-semidouble peach-pink star. **Variegated** dark green and pink, heart-shaped, pointed, serrated/red back. **Standard**

*Newtown Intriga (9432) 5/27/05 (S. Holtzman) Double medium blue ruffled star. **Variegated** medium green, pink and white, heart-shaped, quilted. **Standard**

*Newtown James Peel (9433) 5/27/05 (S. Holtzman) Single lavender sticktite pansy. **Variegated** medium green and white, pointed, serrated. **Standard**

*Newtown Linda Diane (9434) 5/27/05 (S. Holtzman) Single pink two-tone ruffled star/darker eye. **Variegated** medium green and white, pointed, serrated. **Standard**

*Newtown Ohio (9435) 5/27/05 (S. Holtzman) Single-semidouble fuchsia star/white frilled edge. Dark green, heart-shaped, quilted, glossy, serrated. **Standard**

*Newtown Peach Parfait (9436) 5/27/05 (S. Holtzman) Single peach-pink two-tone star/darker eye. Dark green, serrated. **Standard**

*Newtown Pixilated (9437) 5/27/05 (S. Holtzman) Single pink sticktite pansy/white edge. Dark green, quilted, glossy, serrated. **Standard**

*Newtown Plenitude (9438) 5/27/05 (S. Holtzman) Double dark blue-violet pansy/hot pink streaks. Dark green, heart-shaped, quilted. **Large**

*Newtown Quiet Resolve (9439) 5/27/05 (S. Holtzman) Double dark purple pansy. **Variegated** dark green, pink and cream, pointed, quilted, serrated. **Large**

*Newtown Shared Venture (9440) 5/27/05 (S. Holtzman) Semidouble medium blue two-tone ruffled star. **Variegated** dark green and pink. **Standard**

REGISTRATION CHANGE

The following name has been changed at the request of the hybridizer:

Amy Lynn (9301) – Change to **Amy Lyn** (one 'n').

Coming Events Deadlines

January/February AVM - November 1
March/April AVM - January 1
May/June AVM - March 1
July/August AVM - May 1
September/October AVM - July 1
November/December AVM - September 1

All events notices must be in writing.
Submit by Email <rrumsey@earthlink.net>.
Fax: 409.839.4329 or US Postal Service: AVSA Coming Events
2375 North St., Beaumont, TX 77702

Showcase

Symphonette

Exhibited by: **Beverly Williams**
From Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection
2005 National Show
Hybridized by: **Y. Lambert**
Semiminiature

Photo Credit: **Winston J. Goretsky**

Shy Blue

Exhibited by: **Jim Toms**
Hybridized by:
S. Sorano/Lyon Greenhouses
Semiminiature

Photo Credit: **Winston J. Goretsky**

Photo Credit: **Winston J. Goretsky**

Rob's Sticky Wicket

Exhibited by: **Joyce Stork**

Hybridized by: **R. Robinson**

Semiminiature Trailer

In Search of New Violets

Dr. Jeff Smith
The Indiana Academy
Ball State University
Muncie, IN 47306
Email: JSmith4@bsu.edu

While at the AVSA convention in Cincinnati last April, I was asked about the inheritance of some of the more unusual foliage types. Some of these are making a comeback in popularity and are appearing more often in shows. For example, there was around a half dozen plants with bustled foliage on the show floor. The following guide will give some guidance on the inheritance of these traits:

Bustled foliage – dominant to plain foliage
Girl foliage – dominant to plain foliage
Clackamas foliage also known as watermelon veins – dominant to plain foliage
Quilted foliage – dominant to plain foliage
Longifolia foliage – dominant to plain foliage
Ruffled or Holly foliage – dominant to plain foliage
Spooned foliage – recessive to plain foliage

Please note that all but one of these leaf traits is a genetic dominant to plain foliage. If one parent shows the foliage type, about half of the offspring will also show the trait. It is also possible to combine some of these traits together. I have seen nice examples of longifolia + bustled and longifolia + ruffled.

Another leaf trait that is a possible dominant is toothed foliage. This trait is found in the species *Saintpaulia diplotricha* Punter and came through as a dominant in at least one of my crosses.

Q: *Why do some plants with girl foliage have more texture and wrinkles than others?*

A: Girl foliage shows a dose effect in its inheritance. One copy of the gene gives girl foliage with less texture; two copies gives leaves with more texture. The later plants are often very difficult to shape because the leaves grow tightly together. In these cases, removing alternate layers of leaves may help the foliage to lay more flat. Most hybridizers work with single dose plants in order to have offspring with more manageable foliage.

Q: *I've seen pictures in the older issues of the African Violet Magazine which show plants with gorgeous ruffled foliage. Is it possible to find plants with this type of foliage today?*

A: If you have a specific cultivar in mind, try contacting Barbara Elkin with the Vintage Violets in the African Violet Magazine. She may be able to help you locate a grower who still has some of these plants.

Another possibility is to check in the Master Variety List for plants with this type of foliage. It is easy to look for specific foliage types using the First Class 2 program. This may give you the names of more recent hybrids with ruffled foliage.

A third possibility is to create your own hybrids. The trait is a genetic dominant and likely shows a dose affect. Try hybridizing two plants that have at least some ruffling in their foliage. These plants will likely have a single dose of the trait. When crossed together, a few of the offspring should inherit both doses and have heavy ruffling. The trait should start to show in the first sets of leaves of the offspring and allow you to select for plants with ruffled foliage while the plants are young. Good luck with your search or with your crosses.

Q: *What is the mechanism by which a mature plant changes over time from light green foliage to dark green birth marked foliage? Is there a structure in the plant that signals the switch?*

A: Plants are built differently than animals or humans and do not have a gland that serves as a master switch to turn on traits. Plants make most of their changes through individual cells or in small groups of cells. I can think of at least two reasons for the changes you describe.

First, it is not uncommon for African violets to be pale green when the plants are smaller. Many cultivars become darker green over time, predominantly by activating the gene

for red leaf backing. This gene may be triggered by light and fertilizer clues or with the age and size of the leaf. The activation of the gene may not occur in all cells at the same time, giving the leaves blotches of red and non-red backing. As the plant matures, the gene is fully expressed, and all the leaves show the red backing.

Second, if what you describe has occurred to a large fully grown plant, then there may have been a mutation or sport take place. New leaves are produced in an area of the plant known as the shoot apical meristem. This very tiny cluster of cells is located in the center of the crown and is the source for all new leaves. Because of its small size, a mutation in one of these cells has a disproportional effect because all future cells descended from the mutant cell will have the mutation. As the number of mutant cells increases and more and more leaves are produced, the mutation will become visible in more parts of the plant. Over time as the new leaves replace the older leaves, the plant will appear to "change" into a new type.

Sometimes the leaf is a mixture of mutant and normal cells. If the gene was a mutation that activated the red backing trait, then red areas would appear in the leaves. These random spots of red are called "birth marks" and frequently signal that a mutation or sport has occurred. If birth marked leaves are used in propagation, the offspring may be of various types such as the original, a sport, or a mixture of both.

An example of this type of sporting is sometimes seen in plants with fantasy flowers. One side of the plant sports to solid blue while the other half of the plant remains fantasy. In other cases, the sport is to a solid pink while the rest of the plant remains fantasy. Sometimes all three possibilities are seen in one plant. When the shoot apical meristem sports, the outcome can be some very interesting plants.

Q: *Can the same sport occur more than once or is each a separate event with a unique outcome?*

A: There is evidence that some sports have occurred more than once. For example, 'Ma's Melody Girl' is a girl foliage sport of 'Ode to Beauty'. The result is the same as the original girl foliage sport of 'Blue Boy' to 'Blue Girl', but each was a separate event. Other sports to girl foliage have also been reported.

The sport of plain foliage to girl foliage involves the loss of a control gene. The mutation could be in any location in the DNA for the gene, but the end result is still the same. Without knowing the exact DNA sequence and where mutation has occurred, it's difficult to say if the two sports are exactly the same. It probably doesn't matter since any mutation that causes the loss of the control gene gives the same result in the physical appearance of the plant.

Membership Application

Application for Membership Recommended by _____ **Mem. #** _____
The African Violet Society of America, Inc.
2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702 **Date** _____

Membership runs one year from date paid and includes 6 issues of the AFRICAN VIOLET Magazine.

- ❑ Individual Membership USA ($25.00)
- ❑ Associate Member USA ($10.00-no magazine, must reside at same address as a person having any other class of membership)
- ❑ International Membership ($27.50)
- ❑ International Associate ($11.50-no magazine, must reside at same address as a person having any other class of membership)
- ❑ Commercial USA ($37.00)
- ❑ Commercial International ($38.75)
- ❑ Affiliated Chapter USA ($27.00)
- ❑ Affiliated Chapter International ($29.50)
- ❑ Affiliated State, Regional and Council ($27.00)
- ❑ Life Member ($600.00)
- ❑ Library ($25.00)
- ❑ International Life ($750.00)

❑ New Member ❑ Renewal Mem. # _____

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Name _____

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Make checks payable to AVSA, Inc.
INTERNATIONAL APPLICANTS: please remit in **US$** with a draft or check on a USA bank. International Postal money orders accepted. **Dues are not refundable.**

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Signature _____

E-mail Address _____

Meet Steve Hall, Gloxinia Hybridizer

by Joyce Stork

Florist gloxinia, more properly called *Sinningia speciosa*, is a glorious plant that has had great success in the retail market but isn't often seen in shows. That may change once the work being done by Steve Hall is better known.

A number of years ago, Steve built a greenhouse onto his home on the outskirts of Wayne, Nebraska. Since then he has worked single-mindedly to master the growing and breeding of better gloxinias. Many of his seedlings have been sold at wholesale to florists in the surrounding area, and he has built a loyal following seeking his gorgeous double flowers and rich colors. But he has higher goals than making florists happy... Steve wants to improve the genus, and it is working.

Steve's current seedlings come in a rainbow of colors including remarkably deep red and plum-fuchsia tones. Many of them have double flowers, which he says last much longer than singles. Several hybrids in the "Contrast" series (named so because of the interesting darker vein pattern of the leaves) have flowers that are not only double but measure to five inches!

Florist gloxinias have special needs, not the least of which is fairly intense light. In a home environment, Steve recommends a regimen of twelve hours of Verilux spotlights set four to five feet above the plants to promote good bloom and growth habit. He maintains a pot to plant ratio that is very similar to African violets, but he prefers to allow multiple crowns per pot. He also warns that it is necessary to be constantly vigilant for Fusarium, a fungus disease that damages the plant and causes buds to fail. When the disease is controlled, gloxinias will grow to tremendous size with each crown bearing thirty or more buds and blooms.

Those who are interested can find information about his work at his website www.gloxiniane.com. Steve has also been invited to do a presentation on his work with gloxinias at the 2006 Minneapolis convention. Gloxinias are new all over again!

AVSA Building Maintenance Fund

Susan Hapner • 35 Ridge Point Dr. • Chesterfield, MO. 63017

Email: hapnersb@aol.com

Donations Received May 1 through June 30

Kyle Hedberg $5.00
Lisa J. Medlin 25.00
Memory of Jeanne Poblocki, my loving mother
Wade A. Nolan 5.00
Reginald N. Arrington 5.00
Allen Foust 10.00
Joanne Schrimsher 20.00
Corona Heidel 25.00
Janice O'Neill 5.00
Shirley Walden 10.00
Jeanne Church 5.00
Barbara Church 10.00
Vivian Schwartz 5.00
Donna Mosher 20.00
Cynthia O'Brien 5.00
Alice Germane $50.00
In memory of Ms. Ronnie Johnson
Kathryn York 5.00
Thomas O'Connell 3.00
Desiree Brugman 10.00
Nancy Gilson 5.00
Susan E. Joy 5.00
Wendy Tooker 10.00
Carol Allegretti 25.00
Susan Kinsling 5.00
Sandy Officer 15.00
Marlys M. Moak 10.00
Willard Cardot 10.00
Anthony R. Martinka 5.00
Mid-America AV Society 20.00
Richmond AV Society $50.00
Minnesota AVS 20.00
In memory of Retha Johnson
Garden State AV Club 20.00
In lieu of judge's fee
Bertha and Heriberto Deleon 30.00
In memory of Paula Foster and Mary Walbrick
First AV Society Spartanburg 15.00
AV Club Burlington County 10.00
In lieu of judge's fee; Fred Hill and Janet Riemer
AV Society of Greater Tulsa 50.00
In memory of Mary Walbrick
Northern California Council 25.00
Desert Sun AV Society 25.00
Totals **$578.00**

AVSA Booster Fund

Shirley Berger • 4343 Schumacher Rd-196E • Sebring, FL 33872-2639

Contributions: April 1, 2005 – May 31, 2005

African Violet Club of Morris County, NJ $10.00
In lieu of Judges' expenses: Penny Wezel & Margaret Califano
Northern California AV Council 25.00
The Unpredictable's AVS, Independence, MO . . 10.00
Micheline Villemure, Brandon, FL 2.50
Pamala Woods, Gardena, CA 25.00
Stephanie Jeffery, Germantown, MD 10.00
Joan K. Wilson, Theresa, WI 10.00
Lynn Milgrom, Richmond, VA 10.00
Carol Semrau, Anoka, MN 25.00
In loving memory of Retha Johnson
Wisconsin Council of AV Clubs 25.00
Mae Dodson, Baltimore, MD 5.00
Happy Trails AVS, Apple Walley, CA 5.00
Frances Carson, Spring Hill, FL 5.00
Virginia Barthelemy, Tampa, FL 2.00
Bryan Lee, Wilson, NC 15.00
Carol Irvine, Aurora, IL 10.00
Nelly Levine, Arvada, CO 10.00
Phoebe Hahn, Berkeley Heights, NJ $20.00
Central Jersey AVS, NJ 25.00
In lieu of Judges' expenses: Frank Senna, Robert Kurzynski, Janet Riemer, Florence Friedman & Lee Boray
Portland Garden Club, CT 75.00
In lieu of Speaker's fee for Edna Rourke
Itsuko Ishimoto, Honolulu, HI 25.00
Carolyn Nixon, Tolona, IL 10.00
Catherine Okeefe, Topeka, KS 20.00
Sandy Officer, Bloomington, MN 15.00
Susa Kinsling, Somis, CA 5.00
Carol Allegretti, Fort Myers, FL 25.00
Nancy Gilson, Orange, CT 5.00
Thomas O'Connell, Catonsville, MN 1.00
Kathryn York, Belleville, IL 5.00
Joan Paolin, Malden, MA 2.00
Mid-America AVS, Shawnee Mission, KS 50.00
In memory of Gayle Gill, a founding member
First AVS of Spartenburg, SC 10.00
Mrs. Madeline P. Malvese, Mineola, NY $25.00
In memory of Mrs. Robert Rudolph
Long Island AVS, NY 20.00
AV Council of Florida 100.00
AV Club of Burlington County, NJ 10.00
In lieu of Judges, expenses: Robert Kurzynski & Gail Gray
Richmond AVS, VA 30.00
In lieu of Judges' expenses: Carol Van, Carol Brown, Mary Boland, Susan Hoffman, Pat Knight & Laurene Jones
Carroll R. McCarroll, Los Angeles, CA 25.00
In appreciation of Joe Bruns and his First Class Program (September)
Bergen County AVS, NJ 10.00
In lieu of Judges' expenses: Bob Kurzynski & Laurel Brown
AVS of Greater Tulsa, OK 50.00
In memory of Paula Foster
Total **$767.50**

Boyce Edens Research Fund

Marlene J. Buck • 17235 N. 106th Avenue • Sun City, AZ 85373-1958

Donations received from April 30, 2005 – May 31, 2005

Saintpaulia Society of Tacoma, Tacoma, WA $50.00
In memory of Nellie D. Sleeth, a member of our Society for 40 plus years
In memory of Marilyn Stene, a member of our Society for 15 plus years
Ventura County AVS, Ojai, CA 10.00
In memory of Ruth Jo McCoy
Northern California Council 25.00
African Violet Club of Morris County, New Jersey . . . 15.00
In lieu of judging expenses for Jan Murasko, Joseph Svitak, Joseph Palagonia
Aurora Borealis AVS, Anchorage, AK 100.00
Carol Irvine, Aurora, IL 10.00
Bryan Lee, Wilson, NC 15.00
Mrs. Edward Hill, Esko, MN 5.00
Virginia Bathelemy, Tampa, FL 2.00
Richard L. Jarrett, Zelienople, PA 5.00
Frances Carson, Spring Hill, FL 5.00
Lynn Milgrom, Richmond, VA 10.00
Mae Dodson, Baltimore, MD 5.00
Margaret Nasta, McKeespsort, PA 10.00
Joan K. Wilson, Theresa, WI 10.00
Wisconsin Council of AV Clubs, Omro, WI $25.00
Stephanie Jeffery, Germantown, MD 10.00
Chester Landis, Ottawa Lake, MI 15.00
Sandy Officer, Bloomington, MN 15.00
Lynn Wallach, Westport, CT 10.00
Carol Allegretti, Fort Myers, FL 25.00
Susan Kinsling, Somis, CA 5.00
Nancy Gilson, Orange, CT 5.00
First AVS of Spartanburg, Woodruff, SC 10.00
African Violet Society of Hawaii, Honolulu, HI . . 25.00
In memory of Roseline Fujimori
Leonard Re, Fountain Valley, CA 25.00
In lieu of a speaking fee honorarium received from the Palmia Garden Club, Mission Viejo, CA
African Violet Society of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 50.00
In memory of Vera Price, one of the founders of our Society
Richmond African Violet Society, Richmond, VA . . . 25.00
Desert Sun AVS, Phoenix, AZ 160.00
Desert Sun AVS, Phoenix, AZ 25.00
African Violet Club of Burlington County, NJ $10.00
In lieu of judging expenses for Heather Menzel & Jan Murasko
Bergen County AVS, Bergen County, NJ 10.00
In lieu of judging expenses for Betsy Branson & Lee Gugliada
Thomas O'Connell, Catonsville, MD 1.00
Cynthia O'Brien, Norwalk, CT 5.00
Kathryn York, Belleville, IL 5.00
Janice Sorensen, Englewood, CO 5.00
Jeanne Church, Jerusalem, AR 5.00
Barbara Church, Dumont, NJ 10.00
Jewel Schwartz, Spirit Lake, IA 10.00
Vivian Schwartz, Lake Worth, FL 5.00
Corona Heidel, Independence, MO 25.00
Kathryn Ross, Pontiac, IL 10.00
Rainbow Violets, Simi Valley, CA 15.00
Heart of Jacksonville AVS, Jacksonville, FL 3.00
Allen Foust, Orange, NJ 5.00
Victoria AVS, Victoria, TX 20.00
Gabriela Liberty, Calgary, Canada 20.00
Total **$871.00**

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Baton Rouge, LA 70806
Email: ekgprof@cox.net

Repotting Your Plants

Whenever I give talks at Garden clubs, at our club's shows, or during our local plant sales, the most common question I get is, "When and how do I repot my African violet?" In order to keep your plant healthy, full of blooms, and looking great, you must repot your plant. Many experienced growers will repot their plants every three to four months. This is great if you are planning to place your plants in a show. However, most people do not have the time to repot their plants that often. All African violet plants should be repotted twice a year (at a very minimum each plant needs to be repotted at least once a year). This allows the plant to develop new roots, eliminates long neck formation, and removes accumulated fertilizer salts from the top of the soil.

When repotting African violets, it is a good idea to have all of your supplies handy so you don't have to go searching for a tool when the plant is lying on your table with its roots exposed. At a minimum, you will need your African violet mix (soil-less mix), pots, spoons, or some other tool for scooping your mix, a knife, scissors, tape, pen, and wicking material (if you wick water your plants).

When repotting African violets, always start by making a label for the new pot containing the plant name and date of potting. This prevents misidentification of plants when taken to show, and adding the date of repotting to the label helps to identify when the plant needs to be repotted in the future. Further, the label tells others the hybrid name when they admire it.

The first step in repotting African violets is to remove all of the dead material such as leaves and blossoms if you have not done so previously. Completely disbud your plant; this allows the plant to direct its energy to new root formation rather than directing the energy to the blooms after repotting. DO NOT WORRY; THE PLANT WILL BLOOM AGAIN!

Take a good look at the plant. Do all the leaves look healthy? Is the foliage symmetrical? Does the plant growth look continuous or is there an obvious change in plant growth? Is the foliage evenly distributed? Are there gaps between the leaves or uneven growth? This is the time to remove unwanted leaves to obtain better foliage symmetry. Removal of unwanted foliage will also stimulate plant growth. BE CAREFUL WHEN REMOVING FOLIAGE. Once a leaf is removed from the plant it cannot be reattached. If you are not sure if a leaf should be removed from the plant, cover it with your hand or with toilet tissue and then look at the symmetry of the plant. If the symmetry looks better with the leaf covered, then remove the leaf; if covering the leaf results in poorer symmetry, then keep the leaf on the plant.

Figure 1

Figure 1 shows a plant about to be repotted. Notice the outer leaves are smaller than the leaves closer to the center of the plant. Further, the outer, smaller leaves have longer petioles. These smaller leaves are baby leaves; they are the first leaves to appear on a new plant, and they will never fully mature in size. These leaves will be removed so future growth of the plant will fill in the gaps created by these leaves (fig. 2). To remove foliage and/or blossoms, grab the leaf petiole or blossom stem at its base and carefully

Figure 2

twist it to one side until the petiole or stem comes off the plant.

As leaves are removed from the plant, the bare stem is exposed forming a "neck". The neck is made up of the plant stem between the top of the soil-less mix and the bottom row of leaves. This neck will be planted below the soil-less mix, and new roots will develop from this stem. It is important to scrape the neck with your fingernail or a knife (fig. 3) to remove any scar tissue and to stimulate root growth. However, do not cut too deeply into the neck, only remove the outer layer of tissue and any residual leaf petioles from the neck. When done, the stem tissue should be fairly smooth and moist.

Figure 3

You will next have to decide what pot will become your plant's new home. A good rule of thumb is that you want the pot to be one/third the diameter of the foliage. However, the pot size also depends on the amount of roots on the plant. Plants with more roots can be placed in larger pots than those with fewer roots. Place the plant label on the pot. Do not increase the pot size too drastically. A 4-inch pot can hold a lot more volume than a 3-inch pot. Remember, more soil-less mix holds more water in the pot. If the root system cannot absorb all of the moisture in the mix, the water will remain in the mix causing root-rot.

Take the plant out of the old pot and remove any loose soil-less mix from the top of the root ball; fertilizer salts that have accumulated in the mix will be removed. If you are going to repot the plant into the same size pot as it was in previously, you will need to cut off the bottom of the root ball equal in depth to the height of the neck. If you are "potting-up" (going to a larger pot), then you can bury the root ball and neck in the new pot. If you are "potting-down" (placing the plant in a smaller pot), you will have to cut off more of the root ball. Cutting roots off is stressful to the plant; if you cut too many roots, the plant will go into shock and may not recover. A good rule of thumb is to never remove more than one-third of the root ball.

If wick watering your plants, you will need to place your wetted wick in the pot. I like to pull the wick through the bottom of the pot and position it to the top of the pot directly across from the entry point (fig. 4). Everyone places their wicks differently; some growers will coil the wick on the bottom of the pot while others will bring the wick straight up to the top of the pot from the point of entry. Wick placement is unique to each grower; if it works, stay with it.

Figure 4

After the wick has been placed, fill the pot with African violet mix. Begin by placing a few spoonfuls of mix in the bottom of the pot while holding the wick, and then place the old pot inside the new pot. Fill in the space between the two pots with soil-less mix (fig. 5). After the space is filled, remove the inner pot, and you will have a mold for the root ball of the plant (fig. 6).

Figure 5

Place the plant into the new pot and add soil-less mix to bury the neck (fig. 7) and fill in any spaces around the root ball. Tap the potted plant on the table surface a few times to further eliminate air spaces in the pot. DO NOT COMPACT THE SOILESS MIX IN THE POT WITH YOU FINGERS OR INSTRUMENTS as African violets like light and airy mix around their root systems. Compacted soil-less mix will hold more water in the pot and cause root-rot. The finished product is shown in figure 8. The plant is planted in fresh soil, looks more symmetrical, and has a healthy appearance.

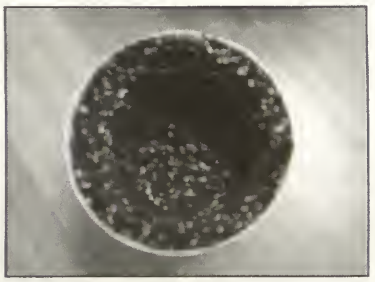

Figure 6

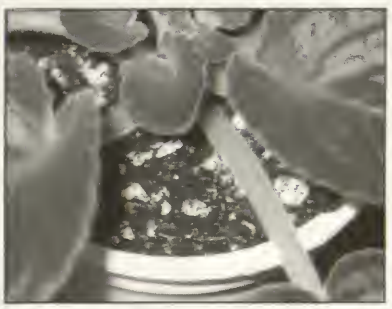

Figure 7

In summary, African violets are hearty plants that need to be repotted in order to stay healthy and looking great. With proper care the same African violet plant could bring you and your future generations decades of happiness and beauty.

Figure 8

The Disappearing Chimera

by Neil Lipson

The Light Bulb Went OFF

About 2 months ago, with the warmer weather, I found my religion, bringing back my violets to their former stunning appearance. As I always do when this happens, I get all the copies of African Violet Magazine that I put in a neat pile, and start catching up from last year. I noticed two articles that made me think hard; the first by Richard Follett on "My Quest to Preserve Rob's Hybrids", and the 2nd, the column by Barbara Elkin on "AVSA Most Wanted".

When I used to read Barbara's column, I thought these were violets in a popularity contest. I didn't understand they were violets that were becoming more difficult to find. After I read one of the lists she printed, I said, "Holy cow, I have many of these plants!" I then also noted that one of my all time favorites was on the list, 'Red Pinwheel', which I lost five years ago when they all reverted back to solid red.

I then did some checking on the internet and found I couldn't find many of my old favorites, neither for love or money. What was going on here? In the quest for many hobbyists to have the newest and prettiest violets, they ignored the classic older ones, to the point where no one grew them any more. However, the problem was really exacerbated when I thought of my chimeras, which account for 50% of my plants. My chimeras were disappearing!

Why? You have to remember that if you are losing a regular African violet, you can immediately pull off at least six leaves and rescue the plant in that way. However, when a chimera reverts to the solid color, losing the pinwheel colors, you're in big trouble. You can't start new plants with leaves, and any suckers you start will probably have reverted too! You then have to either have another plant, or find one from a friend. Try finding 'Red Pinwheel' or 'Sugar N' Spice' from a friend! Good luck.

What have I been doing? I grow about four or five plants each of my chimeras, and fall back on the pure-bred when one of them reverts. I then give away the ones that are reverting, and many people don't mind because they are still beautiful plants. Well, the trouble started when I was down to three plants and two of them reverted. I then started to panic. Fortunately, I gave two plants to friends, and one of the plants then popped back into the clean pinwheel in my friend's possession. Some chimeras have a habit of doing just that.

The Solution

I then gave some thought as to how many of the chimeras I lost in the last 20 years, and it was about 2/3 of my chimera collection. That's quite a few plants, which I may never see again. So here's what I did: I started propagating my special chimeras, 'Sugar N' Spice', 'Red Mt. Fuji', 'Satin N' Lace', and 'Concord', for example. This was very time consuming and space consuming too. But it had to be done. I only have four shelves on my light stand, and they were packed full. All non-essential plants went into other rooms, as backups.

I will now use the power of the press, and request from many of the thousands of readers a list of what chimeras you have. Just the chimeras, nothing else. All you have to do is email me the list. I want to act as a clearinghouse of information so we, as a group, do not lose these beautiful plants of the past. I will be limiting this to chimeras only. There's too many African violets out there for me to catalog all of them. Even the chimeras will be a chore, but I'm not going to sit by while they disappear forever. It's like losing a species.

Some Comments

I need your opinions on this matter. Any comments would be welcome. I also want to know which chimeras you know of are stable or not so we can evaluate whether it is worth the effort in reviving these old classics. If we work as a group on this, we can bring these plants back from the "endangered" group. At the very least, with your help, I can find out how serious the problem is.

Neil Lipson is a full time computer consultant. He can be reached by emailing him at Lipson@att.net or calling 610-356-6183 after 1 pm eastern time. I will return your call as I have unlimited long distance. As a last resort, you can mail me at:

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Broomall, PA 19008

2006 Convention Specific Awards

The excitement has begun for "Violets Vacation in Minneapolis". Here is the list of Specific Variety and Collection Awards for our Minneapolis show. There are lots of varieties - large and small. Can't you see the show room? You know, awards encourage people to show, and they also serve as a reward for doing well. Members and affiliates make these awards possible through their donations. I look forward to hearing from you.

To be a part of the action, please send your awards (payable in U.S. funds) to:

Sue Hoffmann, AVSA Awards Chairman
2809 Forest Hills Court
Virginia Beach, VA 23454
<mail to: avsaawards@cox.net>avsaawards@cox.net

Deadline to be included on the Jan/Feb AVM Awards Page is October 15. Please include an email address or telephone contact.

Specific Commercial Awards

Best Rebel's Minnesota Haze $25 - Ruth Bann (MN)

Commercial Collections

Best Holtkamp Collection $300 - Holtkamp Greenhouses
2nd Best Holtkamp Collection $200 - Holtkamp Greenhouses
3rd Best Holtkamp Collection $100 - Holtkamp Greenhouses

Specific Amateur Awards

Best Buckeye Love's Caress $50 - Pat's Patch/Pat Hancock (OH)
Best Chanticleer $25 - Sue Hoffmann (VA)
In memory of Paula Foster
Best Concord $100 - Kazuo Horikoshi (Tokyo, Japan)
Best Dean's Bunny Blue $25 - Shirley Sanders (TX)
Best Dolores' Chantilly Lace $25 - Dolores Harrington (MN)
Best Duluth $25 - Dolores Harrington (MN)
Best Emilie Savage $25 - Jim & Linda Owens (OH)
Best Everdina $25 - Hans & Everdina Inpijn (CA)
Best Frozen in Time $25 - Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses/Paul Sorano (NY)
Best Irish Flirt $50 - Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses/Paul Sorano (NY)
Best Lilian Jarrett Variegated (#2902) $100 - Anne Tinari (PA)
In memory of Frank Tinari
Best Louisiana Lagniappe $100 - The Baton Rouge Convention group
Best Maas' Mark $25 - Hattie Baggett (AZ)
Best Mickey Mouse $25 - Hans & Everdina Inpijn (CA)
Best Nancy Hayes (trailer) $25 - Nancy Hayes (CT)
Best Ness' Crinkle Blue $25 - Lakes Area Violet Growers (MN)
Best Ness' Crinkle Blue Rosette - Triangle AVS (NC)
Best Ness' Satin Rose $25 - Lakes Area Violet Growers (MN)
Best Precious Pink $50 - Ray & Hortense Pittman (TX)
Best Queen Anne $100 - Catherine Thompson (IA)
Best Rebel's Meg $25 - Ruth Bann (MN)
Best Rebel's Minnesota Haze $25 - Ruth Bann (MN)
Best Rebel's Splatter Kake $15 - AVS of Minnesota (MN)
Best Rebel's Splatter Kake $25 - Ruth Bann (MN)
Best Rosie Ruffles $15 - AVS of Minnesota (MN)
Best Shirl's Senior Moment $25 - Shirley Sanders (TX)
Best Sora Kalissa $25 - Barbara & Charles Werness (MN)
Best Sora Patty Ann $25 - Barbara & Charles Werness (MN)
Best The Alps* $100 - Kazuo Horikoshi (Tokyo, Japan)
Best The King (Maas) $25 - Janet Riemer (NJ)
Best Tiger $100 - Nancy Price (IA)
Best Vintage Wine $25 Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses/Paul Sorano (NY)

Specific Other Gesneriad Awards

Best "Ozark" Sinningia $35 - Dave's Violets (MO)
Best Streptocarpus 'Night Beacon' $25 - Cedar Valley Violet Club (IA)

Amateur Collections

Best Buckeye Collection $150 - Pat's Patch/Pat Hancock (OH)
2nd Best Buckeye Collection $50 - Pat's Patch/Pat Hancock (OH)
Best Holtkamp Collection $300/Coin - Holtkamp Greenhouses
2nd Best Holtkamp Collection $200 - Holtkamp Greenhouses
3rd Best Holtkamp Collection $100 - Holtkamp Greenhouses
Best Robinson Collection** $150 - Ralph & Olive Ma Robinson (NY)
2nd Best Robinson Collection $50 - Ralph & Olive Ma Robinson (NY)
Best Russian Hybrid Collection*** $300 - Vladimir & Tatiana Kalgin (Moscow, Russia)
2nd Best Russian Hybrid Collection $200 - Vladimir & Tatiana Kalgin (Moscow, Russia)
3rd Best Russian Hybrid Collection $100 - Vladimir & Tatiana Kalgin (Moscow, Russia)

* The winner of the Best The Alps will also receive a special Japanese chimera from Kazuo Horikoshi.

** The winner of the Robinson Collection will also receive a beautiful, handmade beaded African violet from Svetlana Speransky valued at $175. See <http://robsviolet.com>http://robsviolet.com to view.

*** We are happy to add this collection of Russian hybrids. All must be AVSA registered varieties, and several of the Commercial members have stock.

This listing has only Specific Variety and Collection Awards. For all current awards, go to AVSA.org. Click National Convention and then Awards. A full Awards List will appear in the January/February AVM.

Specific Variety Awards for Minneapolis closed June 15, 2005. They are now being accepted for Denver.

A Family Portrait

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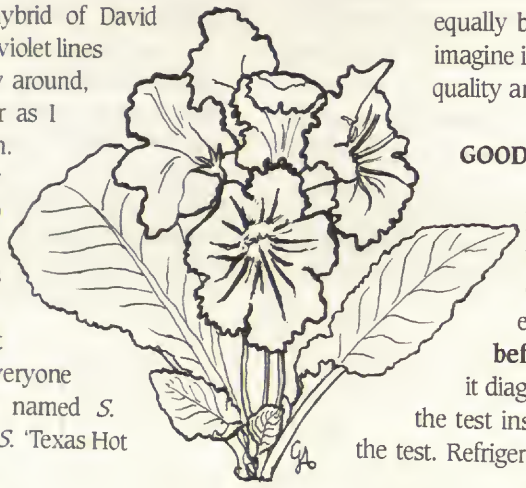
Streptocarpus 'Guidelines' is a hybrid of David Thompson, so named because the dark violet lines coming from the throat are all the way around, even on the top. This is a first as far as I know, so this is a real break-through. The flowers are huge, white, and very ruffled. There are five or more flowers to a peduncle.



Strep 'Guidelines'

David had entered about 30 Streps in the show, most new introductions. When they opened the show room, it was like Macy's basement sale. Everyone wanted the salmon colored hybrid named *S.* 'Salmon Sunset' which is a hybrid from *S.* 'Texas Hot Chili'. This is one of Dale Marten's hybrids, and she sure was there to see the new beauties. I was lucky enough to get the beautiful salmon variety as well as all I could carry, twice. Congratulations, David, you did a fine job. He also gave one of the best talks ever about growing Streps. We will share notes in a future column.

Saintpaulia 'Neon Fantasy', from Lyndon Lyon's 2004 winning introduction, is a must-have. The foliage is very dark green with an even, delicate thin white edge of white variegation. The bloom is electric blue-violet with red-violet random spots.

GREAT CONVENTION

The 2005 convention was fantastic. The Ohio state and Northery Kentucky members should be so proud of their work. The show plants were plentiful, almost 900 entries so well grown that they judging clerks ran out of blue ribbons. The designs were equally well done.

Dale Martin's huge *Kohleria* 'Monte's Friendship' was the best other gesneriad, I think. There was a fantastic Strep equally beautiful on the court of honor table. I imagine it was hard to judge because of the high quality and amount of plants.

GOOD NEWS

My plants do not have INSV. At least, the ones sent to PSU and tested with kits I bought at convention. The culprit is pythium, a fungus-like disease that causes root rot. **As we said before, do not guess about INSV.** Have it diagnosed by a lab or test it yourself. Read the test instructions several times before you do the test. Refrigerate the kits. The Open Forum at convention was just wonderful. Every one of the commercials reinforced their commitment to give us the healthiest plants possible. They would toss any suspect plants, wanting always to keep the integrity of their reputation high. We had slides of the INSV infected plants shown by Pat Hancock who remembered the malady of Doris Palm in the 1990's. Doris had INSV diagnosed in her African violets and took slides of the progressive symptoms. Thank you, Pat. Doris left us a legacy, and thanks to Pat's good memory, she is helping us to grow better plants long after Doris passed away.

Our commercials are so good, and their plants were just beautiful. Never hesitate to order plants or supplies from our commercials. They go to extraordinary lengths to give you the "cleanest" possible plants. Their business depends on their good reputation.

MEMBERSHIP

Please consider giving a membership as a gift. The *African Violet Magazine* is a wonderful gift to a friend, student, library, civic garden center, or school. Compared to other plant society

publications, AVM is a great "buy". We must increase our membership right now. Even though I am a life member, I am going to get another membership to help out. I love giving a copy of AVM to friends. Want to make a great gift? Take a nice basket and fill it with a beautiful plant, small bag of your favorite soil mix, fertilizer, and a copy of *African Violet Magazine*. Put a bow on the handle, and it's a guaranteed hit.

PAT'S AWARD

At the convention, Pat Hancock was given the Bronze Medal. Her hybrids are just gorgeous, and she deserves every accolade we can bestow. Way to go! Dale Martens was also honored, as was John Cook for his continued service to this society. John has an amazing array of growing supplies.

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REJUVENATION OF AN OLDER PLANT

by Marion Baker

Do you have a plant with unhealthy looking or damaged outer leaves? Or one which has grown a neck and/or side shoots (suckers)? It is easy to give this plant a new lease of life by taking a crown cutting.

Follow These Steps:

1. Prepare a 2 inch pot with a wick and potting mix, which is suitable for African violets. Label pot with name of plant and date.
2. Take the plant out of its pot and remove the outer leaves until only four or five remain.
3. With a clean, small, sharp knife or razor blade, cut the main stem leaving about 1 1/2 inches.
4. Scrape the stem gently to remove leaf stubs and scar tissue.
5. Lightly brush some rooting powder on stem. As well as helping to promote root growth, this contains a fungicide to prevent rot.
6. Make a hole in the potting mix with a pencil and place the plant in this. Carefully fill in around the stem with more potting mix.
7. Water with tepid water, that contains a few drops of plant hormone.
8. Drain well and place in a plastic bag. Leave the plant in the plastic bag until roots have formed. Then, open the bag and leave for a few days to allow plant to acclimate.
9. Take the pot out of the bag and put onto wick watering container and care for in usual way.

Do you have a plant that has a "neck" but is otherwise healthy? It can be rejuvenated by using the following method.

1. Prepare a suitable sized pot with wick, potting mix, and label.
2. Take the plant out of the pot and remove unwanted outer leaves.
3. Scrape the leaf stubs from stem. Brush stem with rooting powder. New roots will grow from where leaf stubs have been removed.
4. Cut enough off the roots so that the plant can be potted down in the pot, with the neck no longer visible.
5. Place the plant in the pot and care for in the usual way.

Do you have a plant with side shoots/suckers that you would like to propagate? These need to be a little more than a half inch in size to grow successfully.

1. Prepare a 2 inch pot.
2. Carefully remove the side shoot from the main plant with a clean, sharp implement.
3. Dust the stem with rooting powder
4. Place the plant in the pot-you may need to pin it down with something like a hairpin to keep it steady.
5. Enclose the pot in a plastic bag, leaving until roots have formed. Open the bag and leave for a few days to allow the plant to acclimate.

From the *Newsletter* of the Early Morn AV Group, Australia

Preparing and Transporting to Show – Results

by Marie Montague

It's been months since my article "Preparing and Transporting Violets to Show" was published in the May/June 2005 AVM, and I'd like to share what happened at my next show, the good and bad.

A week before show, a list was prepared and all violets checked to make sure they were true to MVL list and had registration #'s for Class 1 (AVSA Collection, registered varieties, standards) and Class 2 (AVSA Collection, registered varieties, semi-minis or minis.) I wasn't worried about Class 3 (Bay State Collection – three of one kind of standards, miniatures, etc.) because registration #'s are not required.

My garage was filled with boxes of all sizes, and beer and soda trays for plants. Every time I went to my local market for milk, etc., I'd ask for trays. They never did quite comprehend why I needed them, and I really became a pest to the clerks. The night before show, I realized that 'Tomahawk' needed a banana box, and time was wasted going to two local markets in search of one.

At registration I decided to enter my Class 1 plants last. This was a big mistake. When I got to entry, 'Tomahawk', one of my Class 1 plants, had a broken leaf. I removed two rows and decided to send it through in Class 5 (where it received a blue.) I had to replace 'Tomahawk', and there was nothing left to draw on. At this point, it was time to concede that I didn't have a Class 1 collection, but a very miserable 'Ceremonial Dance' was selected (it received a red).

The worst thing was that I knew I had a very weak Class 1 collection the week before. I could have substituted Wrangler's Dixie Celebration, but after trying to enter this plant without success for 10 years, this was dedicated to Vintage.

Class 2 was a success although the three plants selected, 'Rob's Antique Rose', 'Snuggles', and 'Rob's Pewter Bells', have been to show so often they can travel by themselves.

I was tempted to enter 'Irish Flirt' which I haven't shown in a while, but this can be risky. The judges' interpretation of 'Irish Flirt' is always different. One year you receive a blue, and the next year a red showing exactly the same plant, or what looks like the same plant to you.

Class 3 was a success, but not what I planned. One of the plants was misnamed when I came to registration. I knew what it should have been, but when I checked MVL one more time the night before, the description listed color as orchid. When I looked at plant blossoms, they were pink. Are orchid and pink the same color? Sometimes the MVL list is confusing since people see colors differently.

Another problem that I had was despite hours of grooming, small particles of vermiculite kept appearing on the leaves. Before packing to show, the leaves were clean but when opening the boxes at the show, there was more vermiculite on the leaves. It seemed to be in the air around my plants. Thank heavens my brush was close at hand.

I did not need to use tweezers, but small scissors were needed to remove spent blossoms on trailers. You can groom trailers every day, and for every ten blossoms that open, there seems to be ten blossoms to remove. It was a blessing that a good friend was at hand to check my trailers before entry. She was a highlight of the show for many growers because she was willing to spend hours looking at entry plants. She is one of the best growers in the Northeast who can identify the most popular plants correctly and has what the judges are looking for down to a science (by choice she is not a judge).

An embarrassment to me is that I did receive three red ribbons without reason. These plants should not have been entered in the first place, but I wanted to make sure there were enough plants in the show.

I say without reason because in the past I have entered plants that I knew were red ribbon plants for a purpose. In one case, an *Episcia* 'Alfred Stark' was entered in blooming gesneriads with one blossom. Someone very special gave me a stolon, and I wanted to show her that it was in bloom.

Another year it was an 'Ellie Gardner' with insufficient bloom. As we know, this is a very difficult plant to grow, and after being on my stands for many, many years, it wanted to go to show. This year 'Ellie' was on the educational display.

I took a chance with 'Wrangler's Dixie Celebration', an older variety. I knew there was sufficient bloom for this variety (I counted the blossoms the night before show), and, thankfully, there were experienced judges on the panel who agreed with me. Less experienced judges would have given it a red (I received two awards).

Lesson learned: don't enter inferior plants to increase show total; they will come back to bite you with red ribbons.

The show proved successful in the end for me and, most importantly, for the public. Tower Hill Botanic Garden in Boylston, Massachusetts, was the perfect place for the show. Due to the efforts, and more hours than I can imagine, of two dedicated club members, the theme of the show was carried through to perfection; the backdrops they prepared were truly elegant.

My estimate of over 700 people who viewed the show might be low. I do know that hundreds came and viewed the plants, learned about growing, and purchased sale plants to try themselves. The air was "electric" with smiles of pure joy as people viewed the magnificent plants on display and for sale.

Light & Dark

by Betty Hazard
Email: ELKHaz@aol.com
Tucson African Violet Society

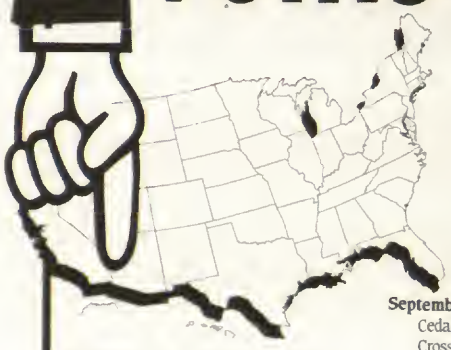
We often hear about the importance of light to African violet plants. The impact of a fluorescent tube starting to fail can be seen in [either or both] of these two photographs:

The plants are all from crowns taken and planted at the same time on November 24, 2004, from one parent plant labeled 'Deer Path,' a trailer. It probably is a trailer, but the blossom colors do not match the Master List description. (J. Gehr. Double ivory bell/blue fantasy. Dark green, plain. Semiminiature trailer)

Taken "straight on."

Angled on the dark side; exaggerates the amount of light (or lack of it) on each end. Plants on the brighter side are in their first bloom; the dark side has no blossoms or even buds.

Coming Events



September 10 - NEW HAMPSHIRE
State AV & Gesneriad Society
Judged Show/Sale
St. Thomas Aquinas Center
26 Crystal Ave.
Derry, NH
Hours: 10am - 3:30pm
Info: Tom Roberge (603) 429 - 3710
Email: tomroberge@yahoo.com

September 10 - PENNSYLVANIA
Pittsburgh Violet and Gesneriad Society
Exhibit/Sale
Galleria Mall
1500 Washington Rd.
Pittsburgh, PA
Hours: 10am - 7pm
Info: Georgene Albrecht (724) 693 - 8666
Email: georgena@verizon.net

September 17 & 18 - COLORADO
The Gloxinia and Gesneriad Society Fall
Show/Sale
Mitchell Hall
Denver Botanic Gardens
Denver, CO
Sept 17 - 1pm - 4pm
Sept 18 - 10am - 4:30pm

September 17 & 18 - ARIZONA
Tucson AVS Sale/Display
Foot Hills Mall
7325 N. LaCholla Blvd.
Tucson, AZ
Sept 17 - 10am - 9pm
Sept 18 - 11am - 5pm
Info: Kathy Bell (520) 574 - 1367
Email: kkbell@ag.arizona.edu

September 23 - MINNESOTA
AVS of Minnesota Show/Sale
Har Mar Mall
Snelling Ave. & Co. Rd. B
Roseville, MN
Sept 23 - 10am - 9pm
Sept 24 - 10am - 6pm
Info: Palma Trapp (763) 780 - 7317
Email: rebels@mninter.net

September 23 & 24 - IOWA
Cedar Valley AVS Show/Sale
Crossroads Mall
Waterloo, IA
Hours: 10am - 9pm
Info: Carol Tjaden (319) 234 - 0454
Email: Barb Pershing barbara.
pershing@uni.edu

September 24 & 25 - MARYLAND
Baltimore AVC Plant Sale
Harford Mall
696A Belair Road
Bel Air, MD
Sept 24 - 10am - 9:30pm
Sept 25 - 11am - 5pm
Info: Shirley Huffman (301) 953 - 7554
Email: Bshuffman2@aol.com

September 30 - October 2 - CALIFORNIA
California Council Convention
Show & Sale
Descanso Gardens
1418 Descanso Dr.
La Canada, CA
Sept 30 - 9am - 4pm
Oct 1 - 9am - 4pm
Oct 2 - 9am - 3pm
Info: (818) 846 - 1241
Email: Thomsonhcib@aol.com

October 1 & 2 - FLORIDA
AV Council of Florida Judged
Show and Sale
Lakeland Holiday Inn Hotel &
Conference Center
3260 US Highway 98N (I-4 Exit 32)
Lakeland, FL
Oct 1 - 9am - 6pm
Oct 2 - 11am - 5pm

October 1 & 2 - MICHIGAN
Michigan State AVS Display/Sale
Matthaei Botanical Gardens
1800 Dixboro Rd.
Ann Arbor, MI
Oct 1 - 10am - 4:30pm
Oct 2 - 10am - 2pm
Info: Ingrid Bowman (248) 698 - 3628

October 1 & 2 - TEXAS
Spring Branch AVC Annual Sale
Houston Garden Center
Hermann Park
1500 Hermann Dr.
Houston, TX
Oct 1 - 9am - 5pm
Oct 2 - Noon - 4pm
Info: Elaine Click (713) 462 - 4257
Email: eeclick@aol.com
www.orgsites.com/tx/sbavc

October 8 - OREGON
Portlandia Violet Club Display/Sale
Jantzan Beach Mall
1405 Jantzen Beach Center
Portland, OR
Info: Blanche Bunker (503) 761 - 7861

October 8 & 9 - PENNSYLVANIA
AVS of Philadelphia Show/Sale
Plymouth Meeting Hall
(Boscov's Auditorium)
Germantown Pike & Hickory Rd.
Plymouth Meeting, PA
Oct 8 - 1pm - 7pm
Oct 9 - 11am - 4pm
Info: Betsy Gottshall (610) 489 - 6124
Email: Gottshb@aol.com

October 15 & 16 - TEXAS
First Austin AVS Fall Display/Sale
Austin Area Garden Center
Zilker Botanical Garden
2200 Barton Springs Rd.
Austin, TX
Oct 15 - 10am - 4:30pm
Oct 16 - 10am - 4pm
Info: Jeannette Pursley (512) 243 - 2289
Email: tijean21@netzero.net

October 15 & 16 - OKLAHOMA
Missouri Valley AV Council
Show/Sale & Judging School
Sheraton Tulsa Hotel
10918 East 41st St.
Tulsa, OK
Oct 15 - noon - 4pm
Oct 16 - 10am - 2pm
Info: Rose Howlett (918) 627 - 7395

October 15 & 16 - ILLINOIS
Northern Illinois Gesneriad Society
Show/Sale
Friendship Park Conservatory
395 Algonquin Rd.
Des Plaines, IL
Hours: Noon - 3pm
Info: Susan Bradford (847) 740 - 7801
(847) 298 - 3500

October 21 & 22 - IOWA
Quad Cities AVS Display/Sale
Northpark Mall
Davenport, IA
Info: Sally Lee (563) 289 - 3310
Email: sallysbloomers@aol.com
Judi DuPont (815) 695 - 5924
Email: 2manyhobbies@sbcglobal.net

October 21 & 22 - CALIFORNIA
Thousand Oaks/Ventura County AVS
Our Violet Silver Anniversary
Newbury Park Library
2331 Borchard Rd.
Newbury Park, CA
Oct 21 - 11am - 6pm
Oct 22 - 10am - 4pm
Info: Marcia Shaver (805) 495 - 0218

October 22 & 23 - CALIFORNIA
Delta Gesneriad & AVS Show/Sale
Sacramento Garden & Arts Center
3300 McKinley Blvd.
Sacramento, CA
Oct 22 - 2pm - 5pm
Oct 23 - 10am - 4pm
Info: Lynn Lombard (530) 637 - 9000
Email: lynn_Lombard@worldnet.att.net

October 22 - OREGON
Portland AVA Display/Sale
United Methodist Church
Tabor Heights
6161 SE Stark St.
Portland, OR
Hours: 10am - 3pm
Info: Bill Walsh (971) 506 - 7127

October 22 & 23 MINNESOTA
North Star AV Council Display/Sale
Bachman's
6010 Lyndale Ave. South
Minneapolis, MN
Oct 22 - 10am - 5pm
Oct 23 - 11am - 4pm
Info: Barbara Werness (763) 754 - 3918
Email: bwerness@comcast.net

October 23 - COLORADO
Rocky Mountain AVS Fall Sale
Mitchell Hall
Denver Botanic Gardens
Denver, CO
Hours: 9am - 4:30pm

October 29 & 30 - CONNECTICUT
Nutmeg State AVS Show/Sale
Days Inn
Exit 55, I-95
Branford, CT
Oct 29 - 1pm - 4pm
Oct 30 - 10am - 3pm
Info: (203) 281 - 1715

November 4 & 5 - TEXAS
Lone Star AV Council State Convention
Holiday Inn Emerald Beach
Corpus Christi, TX
Info: Marjorie Bullard (361) 992 - 3009
Email: Marjbcrp@sbcglobal.net
www.lsavc.org

November 10 -12 - VIRGINIA
MAAVS 15th Annual Convention
Comfort Inn
3200 West Broad St.
Richmond, VA
Judging School
Conducted by Jack Wilson
Info: (804) 594 - 0643
(804) 740 - 5322

November 10 - VIRGINIA
Judging School Conducted by
Jack Wilson
MAAVS Convention
Comfort Inn, 3200 Broad St.
Richmond, VA
Fee: $15.00
Registration:
Carol Brown
(757) 474 - 0197
Email: caroljene@aol.com

AFRICAN VIOLET CONSERVATION AND TOURISM IN TANGA REGION, TANZANIA

Johanna Kolehmainen
The Finnish Saintpaulia Society and the University of Helsinki
johanna.kolehmainen@helsinki.fi

Introduction

African violets (*Saintpaulia*) grow as rare endemics (native to a certain region) in the biologically rich forests of the Eastern Arc Mountains and the lowland forest fragments of coastal Kenya and Tanzania. They thrive best in the deep shade of the forest on rock outcrops, often along rivers and streams. Many habitats have been lost due to the extensive fragmentation of the forest, and the African violet has become globally threatened. More extensive fragments of forest remain in the East Usambara Mountains in Tanga Region, NE Tanzania. These forests are largely protected, and together with their buffer zones they form a UNESCO Man and Biosphere Reserve (MAB). The coastal lowland forests in the Tanga Region, on the other hand, are extremely fragmented, and very few of them are protected.

The Tanga Region is highly important in terms of African violet conservation. This is because several species and localities of the plant still exist there, and because it is a flagship for the conservation of the biodiversity of the entire East Usambara Biosphere Reserve. The flagship status is mainly attributable to the African violet's world popularity as an ornamental plant, and as such, its important role attracting conservation initiatives and funds to the East Usambara. *Saintpaulia* and its co-flora and fauna also attract tourists to the area, and the wild African violet species are a genetic reservoir for the breeding of new commercial cultivars.

Conservation of the African violet faces many challenges. Information on the distribution and population sizes of different species is largely outdated. There is also high morphological variation among populations, and some of the species are suspected to hybridize with other species, which makes species identification difficult. This makes it also difficult to define management units for conservation. Initiatives to integrate *Saintpaulia* with sustainable tourism to help develop the poor communities have also not yet been established.

On this background, the Finnish Saintpaulia Society, in collaboration with the University of Helsinki Botanical Garden, launched a pilot project in 2003 with an overall goal to conserve the African violet species in the Tanga Region. The following specific objectives were set for the first project phase: (1) to map the distribution of *Saintpaulia* species, (2) to assess the suitability of the found localities for ecotourism, (3) to collect leaf samples for the analysis of the genetic variation, (4) to draw local, national, and international attention on the conservation of the plant, (5) to assess its conservation status in the area, and (6) to suggest further conservation actions. Field work was targeted on four forest blocks in the East Usambara Mountains and on three lowland areas surrounding Tanga town. The international project team included members from Finland, Tanzania, Kenya, and Sweden (Fig.1).

Fig. 1. Saintpaulia field team in Nilo Forest Reserve, East Usambara Mountains.

Methods

Satellite imagery, maps, GPS, and local guides were used to locate *Saintpaulia* in the field. When a locality was found, a description of it was made including the physical features, vegetation, and the observed human impacts. Morphological variation in the species and the condition of the plants was examined. Suitability of the sites for ecotourism was assessed using special criteria that considered attributes such as accessibility, distance to visitor facilities, scenic value, and the presence of local spiritual activities. Furthermore, raising awareness was conducted at the local level about the importance of the conservation of the African violet by meetings with village environmental committees. The villagers were educated about the human activities that threaten the plant and its ornamental use and popularity in the northern countries. The idea of additional income generation from community based African violet tourism was also presented. The project has been publicized at national and international levels in articles, TV programs, and a few meetings and exhibitions.

Results

About sixty *Saintpaulia* localities, representing about ten species, were found. The majority were located in the forests of the East Usambara Mountains. The species included

Saintpaulia confusa, *S. difficilis*, *S. grotei*, *S. pendula*, a proposed hybrid, *S. confusa* x *grotei*, and a species which could not be identified to belong to any of the currently recognized species (Fig. 2). In the mountain forests, the plants were generally healthy and formed extensive and dense colonies (Fig. 3).

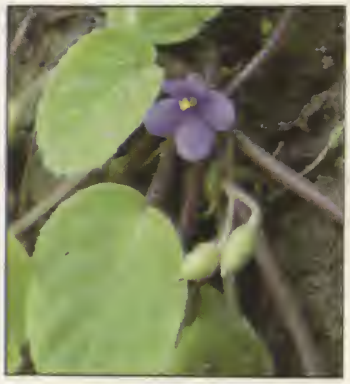


Fig. 2. An unidentified Saintpaulia species in Handei Village forest, East Usambara.

Fig. 3. Hassani, the local guide, and a healthy stand of Saintpaulia grotei in Derema forest, East Usambara.

Seedlings and juvenile plants were also commonly found. Morphological variation within species was observed in some places, especially in leaf shape, color, and hairiness (Fig. 4). Human impacts like fuel wood collecting, pole cutting, and occasional tree cutting were observed especially close on forest boundaries adjacent to human settlements. Forest fires were also reported to be recurrent in places where forest borders with cultivations that are burnt regularly. Moreover, invasion of the illegal gold miners poses a new threat to *Saintpaulia* in the mountains. Mining has destroyed stream and river habitats as trees are being cut for building poles and firewood for mining camps. At least two *Saintpaulia* localities are known to have been badly damaged by miners, but in reality many more are probably affected.

Fig. 4. Red and white color morphs of Saintpaulia pendula in Nilo Forest Reserve, East Usambara

Ten of the found localities were situated in the lowlands (altitudes lower than 400 m a.s.l.). Populations of *S. diplotricha* and *S. ionantha* were located along the Mkulumuzi River, *S. tongwensis* near Tongwe Hill, and the yet undescribed *S.* 'Sigi Falls' along the Zigi River. Seedlings and juvenile plants were uncommon in the lowland populations, which indicates weak sexual regeneration. Human activities have affected natural vegetation in the lowlands for a much longer time than in the mountains. Fires were reported to escape into the forest during the dry season, and other illegalities such as tree cutting are common. The remaining lowland forest fragments are also threatened by pole cutting, firewood collecting, charcoal burning, and the expansion of cultivations (Fig. 5).

Fig. 5. Many of the African violet habitats in the Mkulumuzi River valley have been turned to vegetable fields.

Moreover, grazing of domestic livestock damages vegetation and prevents re-growth of forest. Limestone quarrying is a specific threat for the lowland African violets because in many places they depend on limestone for growing substrate. The famous habitat of *S. ionantha* (Fig. 6) at the Amboni Caves, a few kilometers from Tanga town, is currently in a desperate condition. There are only a few trees to protect the remaining few hundred plants, and the Antiquities Department had recently even felled more trees from the caves' entrance to make the caves more attractive for visitors.

Fig. 6. Saintpaulia ionantha growing on limestone at the Amboni Caves.

At the moment, the Amani Nature Reserve and its surroundings is the best place to see African violets in the

wild because of the existing visitor facilities and because there are several accessible localities comprising different species. There are remote sites in intact forest and sites bordering with village lands with beautiful views to neighboring hilltops and valleys (Fig. 7). A special

Fig. 7. West Usambara Mountains and Lwengera Valley viewed from the Amani Nature Reserve.

destination for a *Saintpaulia* enthusiast is the Emau Hill Roman Catholic Centre near Amani village, which is being developed as a center for religious, educational, social, and tourism functions. In the Emau Hill, a visitor can take a walk in an idyllic river valley decorated by a population of *Saintpaulia difficilis,* enjoy refreshments at an open air café, and overnight in a tent on a big lawn. A rest house is also under construction. The best time to see well-blooming African violets in the mountains is in November and December. In the lowlands, the greatest potential for African violet safaris is in the Mkulumuzi River valley, where the Amboni Caves are located.

The amount of knowledge that local people had about the African violet was highly variable. In some areas, people were not aware of *Saintpaulia* at all, whereas in other places many of the villagers were familiar with the plant. The locals did not know that the plant is propagated and sold as an ornamental plant in foreign countries. The idea of locally run African violet tourism was warmly welcomed and the villagers were eager to be involved if such project was initiated.

Discussion

Saintpaulia is not in specific danger in the East Usambara Mountains where the majority of the forest is under protection. In the mountains, there are plenty of suitable habitats; the genus is even locally abundant and seems to reproduce well. However, the populations located at forest margins are likely to be in danger due to decreased humidity and shade and exposure to anthropogenic disturbance on vegetation. Second, the effect of the gold rush on *Saintpaulia* is not known and the mining activity is reported to be continuing in 2005. In the lowlands, the genus is in extreme danger, and the remaining populations are likely to go extinct in the near future because most of the habitats are on public or private lands that are not protected.

For conservation efforts to be successful, a multidisciplinary approach is needed. Both biological and socio-economical aspects need to be considered. Biological components include ecological and population genetic research to obtain the necessary knowledge for *in situ* (on the site) and *ex situ* conservation (botanical gardens, seed banks) of the species. Surveys of the distribution of the species need to be continued, especially in forests that are not yet protected, in order to obtain the current status of the species. Where possible, trees should be planted to protect the localities situated on forest margins. Assessment of the effects of the gold rush ought to be conducted and, if possible, habitats affected by mining should be restored and backup plant material collected to gene banks. The possibility of establishing *ex situ* conservation facilities in Tanzania should be studied. They would ideally consist of a seed bank and a living plant collection which could also serve as a visitor attraction.

Perhaps the only viable way to save the wild African violets is to integrate biological conservation with sustainable utilization of the plant by tourism. This should be experimented in close collaboration with selected local communities. Special *Saintpaulia* trails would be built, and villagers would be trained in visitor services. This will be possible only through collaboration among local communities, scientists, responsible tour operators, government authorities, and other stakeholders working in the area. International support would ideally come from the horticulture industry and the African violet societies that base their activity on the utilization of these plants and who should thus feel proud to help safeguard their existence in the wild.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank the Rufford Foundation, the African Violet Society of America, the Swedish Saintpaulia Society, and the Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Gardens for financial support, and the University of Helsinki Botanical Garden for administrative support. Staff of the Amani Nature Reserve and Tanga Catchment Forest Office, especially Mr. Raymond Killenga, Mr. Evarist Nashanda, and Mr. Johari Mtango helped much in the arrangements of the field work. Frank Mbago from the Botany Dept. University of Dar es Salaam, is also acknowledged for help in project preparations. I also wish to thank the project volunteers and all local guides for their contribution to field work. Also, the Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology is acknowledged for granting research permits for the foreign project volunteers.

(All photo credits by the Finnish Saintpaulia Society)

Annual Library Message

Tom Glembocki • 103 Downing Pl. • Apex, NC 27502 • *email:* tom@bluebirdgreenhouse.com

It's hard to believe that "Violets Reign in the Queen City", the 2005 AVSA convention and show in Cincinnati was almost 6 months ago. Thanks to the dedicated and capable leadership of Anne Nicholas, we have another 35mm slide program, as well as another DVD. We're blessed once again to have the work of photographers Marjorie Bullard and Christel Collier on both.

The 35 mm slide show is an 80 slide tour of some of the award winners accompanied by an audio narrative on a cassette tape. This is a rental only. This same show is included on the DVD, with audio narrative, and may be rented or purchased. The DVD also contains additional material with a more in-depth look at some of the African violets, gesneriads, and ambiance of the host city. For planning a club program, the DVD is ideal. It also serves as inexpensive reference material for your club library, containing enough material for several meeting programs. (There is also a CD, a photographic record of the winners of the show, that is only available for purchase through the AVSA Office and is intended for a computer monitor.)

Anne Nicholas has done a marvelous job over the years bringing the library up to date. I personally want to thank her for this. She has made it easy to assume the Library Chair job. Much progress has been made, but we're still in need of up-dated quality programs. To this end, Anne is going to remain on the Library Committee, and Laurene Jones has volunteered to use her teaching and writing skills to help us create quality material. Send your cards, letters, and emails with suggestions.

When you plan your meetings in the coming year, perhaps your club can document what you are doing so that others may enjoy it as well. All formats are appreciated - PowerPoint presentations, hand-written manuals and notes, affiliate yearbooks, video tapes, and DVDs. Please contact me, Tom Glembocki, not the AVSA office. Together with the library committee, I'll help get your club presentation into a format to be shared.

Jim Owens, who maintains the AVSA web site, has made it easier to order library materials. You can now browse the list of library materials online at http://www.avsa.org/ and order what you need for a club program.

Thanks to the entire library committee and office staff for all the work they do to keep the library rolling along smoothly. I look forward to hearing from everyone with their ideas and especially the contributions of library materials.

ORDER ALL LIBRARY MATERIALS FROM AVSA OFFICE

DESCRIPTIVE LIST OF LIBRARY MATERIALS

SECTION 1: CONVENTION SHOWS

The following are slide programs of outstanding exhibits at National Convention shows; they are especially entertaining for members not attending conventions.

163L **"THE NEW ENGLAND SPIRIT"** (C) (80 Slides) Experience the best of the award-winning plants and designs displayed "The New England Way," Boston 1990.

166L **"VIOLETS IN THE GOLDEN STATE"** (C) (80 Slides) Award-winning plants and designs from the Santa Clara convention 1991.

167L **"A CENTURY OF VIOLETS"** (C) (80 Slides) An exciting presentation of award-winning plants and designs from "Violet Heritage and Horizons," Columbus 1992.

169L **"MORE PENNSYLVANIA FRIENDS"** (C) (80 Slides) of award-winning exhibits at the 1993 National Convention Show.

171L **"A FESTIVAL OF VIOLETS"** (C) (80 Slides) Award-winning exhibits - both horticulture and design from the Denver National AVSA Show 1994.

175L **"ST. LOUIS BLUES AND OTHER COLORS"** (C) (80 Slides) Award-winning exhibits – both horticulture and design from the 1995 St. Louis Convention.

179L **"ATLANTA REVISITED! OUR 50TH"** (C) (79 Slides) Many of the winning exhibits, both horticulture and design, enjoyed at the 50th Anniversary convention, Atlanta, GA 1996.

183L **"VIOLETS AT THE BEACH"** (C) (78 Slides) Winning exhibits from the convention show 1997 at St. Petersburg Beach, FL.

190L **"WE VISIT SACRAMENTO - 1998"** (C) (80 Slides) Horticulture and designs presented by exhibitors in our convention show, April 1998 in California.

193L **"HOUSTON BEAUTIES - 1999"** (C) (80 Slides) of the convention show 1999.

197L **"GO WILD IN OMAHA - 2000"** (C) (80 Slides) Pictures of "wild" horticulture and design winners from the AVSA convention in Omaha, May, 2000.

200L **"CHICAGO SHOW BEAUTIES - 2001"** Horticulture Design, and Commercial winners at the Convention Show in Chicago. (80 Slides).

201L **"MR. VIOLET GOES TO WASHINGTON"** (C) (80 Slides). See the award winning exhibits in horticulture, design, and more! Selected from over 800 entries at the 2002 show.

202L **"BEST OF THE 90'S"** (C) (80 Slides). The top winners in horticulture and design from the national shows from 1990-1999. The Best of the Best!!

203L **"35th ANNUAL AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF CANADA CONVENTION & SHOW"** May 1-5, 2002 (80 Slides).

204L **"LOUISIANA LAGNIAPPE"** (C) (80 Slides).

206L **2003 CANADIAN NATIONAL AV SHOW** (80 Slides).

207L **"A FIESTA OF VIOLETS"** - 2004 (C) (80 slides) Award winning exhibits from the 2004 AVSA Convention and Show in Tucson, AZ.

209L **"VIOLETS REIGN IN THE QUEEN CITY** - 2005 AVSA Convention (80 Slides).

New

CD of the 2004 AVSA Convention and Show in Tucson, AZ.
Order from the AVSA Office.
$9.95 - US $14.95 - International

SECTION II: NEW INTRODUCTIONS

The following is a series of programs compiled from slides of new cultivars submitted by hybridizers and commercial members.

168L **"GEMS OF COLUMBUS"** (C) (80 Slides) A collection of slides depicting the best new introductions at the 1992 Columbus, Ohio convention.

170L **"LANCASTER LOVELIES"** (C) (80 Slides) The best 1993 introductions shown by Ray "Sundown" Pittman at the Lancaster Convention.

172L **"DENVER DEBUTANTES"** (C) (80 Slides) Selected outstanding 1994 introductions from various hybridizers. Presented by Kent Stork at the Denver Convention.

176L **"WE MET IN ST. LOUIS"** (C) (80 Slides) - Meet the 1995 new hybrids - slides submitted by various hybridizers and introduced at the St. Louis convention.

180L **"FIFTY YEARS AND GROWING"** (C) (80 Slides) Slides submitted by various hybridizers and shown in Atlanta, GA at the 50th Anniversary convention.

184L **"NEW VARIETIES ON PARADE"** (C) (71 Slides) Hybridizers share slides of their new varieties presented at 1997 Convention in St. Petersburg Beach, FL.

191L **"NEW CULTIVARS - 1998"** (C) (50 Slides) Slides of new plants from our hybridizers.

199L **"NEW INTRODUCTIONS - 2001"** Slides of new cultivars from our hybridizers (48 slides).

205L **"NEW INTRODUCTIONS OF 2002 AND 2003"** (C) (50 Slides).

210L **"NEW INTRODUCTIONS - 2005"** - Slides of new cultivars from our hybridizers.

New

SECTION III : AFRICAN VIOLET LIFE

Section III is a series of slide programs relative primarily to African violet culture and related subjects. They are somewhat dated but with much helpful information for the novice grower.

140L "MULTIPLYING SAINTPAULIAS" (65 Slides) Basic program on African violet propagation including leaf cuttings, plant division, seed and grafting. Slides show how to produce and plant seeds.

147L "THE AFRICAN VIOLET PLANT" (77 Slides) A good, basic program identifying leaf types, blossom form and colors, and diseases that affect the foliage.

150L "THE PITTMAN WAY OF GROWING VIOLETS" (C) (84 Slides) A step-by-step visual program on growing and grooming miniature and semiminiature African violets.

151L "THE SAINTPAULIA SPECIES" (79 Slides) A comprehensive, educational, workshop-type program. Very thorough and somewhat technical. A depicted work by Neva Anderson.

161L "POINTERS IN JUDGING" (C) (74 Slides) A revised version of workshop program for judges and exhibitors. Emphasis on grooming of plants in preparation for showing.

182L "TRAILERS - MAKING THEM DO WHAT I WANT THEM TO DO" (C) (70 Slides) (1997) Bev Promersberger demonstrates how she grows trailers that make the "Winners Circle".

194L "DESIGNING FOR SHOW" (66 Slides) Program includes step-by-step instruction for construction of a terrarium followed by lovely examples of the different design types for exhibition.

SECTION IV: GESNERIADS

Listed below are programs identifying African violet cousins, their care, and propagation.

139L "MEET THE FAMILY" (C) (60 Slides) A vivid look at some of the other members of the gesneriad family, compiled and narrated by Margaret Waguespack. An informative program for those who want to broaden their growing horizons or for those who just want to "meet the family".

178L "UNUSUAL GESNERIADS FOR THE LIGHT GARDEN" (C) (54 Slides) A group of the smaller gesneriads suitable for the light stand.

SECTION V: VIOLET PESTS AND DISEASES

These slide programs identify pests and diseases and their impact on African violet cultivars.

132L "AFRICAN VIOLET PESTS" (C) (52 Slides) A short, succinct program by Dr. Charles L. Cole with vivid illustration of common African violet pests.

152L "VIOLET TROUBLES" (63 Slides) Pests, diseases, and results of poor culture exhibited in the program. An oldie, but good basic information.

SECTION VI: SPECIAL PROGRAMS

187L "30TH AVSC CONVENTION - TORONTO 1997" Slides of the Canadian Show. (80 slides)

195L "AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF CANADA CONVENTION & SHOW, TORONTO, CANADA", 1999 - (80 Slides) of beautiful photography highlight this show.

198L "AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF CANADA Convention & Show, Ottawa, 2001", (87 Slides).

VIDEO TAPES

173L "AFRICAN VIOLETS IN THE NEW GARDEN" Ken Froboese talks violets - a visit with Ken in his greenhouse, Hill Country African Violets.

185L "GROWING BEAUTIFUL AFRICAN VIOLET TRAILERS" (28 minutes). Anna Jean Landgren demonstrates how she grows trailers. One of a series of presentations for TV by members of Illinois State AV Society.

186L "TEACHING THE TRICKS" (27 minutes) A second presentation of the cable TV productions - this one shows Jean Willey instructing new grower Tracy Bruns in the basics of African violet growing. Particularly good for novice growers.

188L "RAGS TO RICHES" - Another cable TV presentation in the series of House Plant How-tos. This is by Andrea Worell as she demonstrates how to groom or redo those African violets that need "help".

189L "PROPAGATING YOUR POSIES" - This video, also by Andrea Worell, shows how she starts African violets and some other gesneriads. Another of the House Plant How-tos series. Andrea has a new slant on an old idea. Very entertaining.

196L "BASIC AFRICAN VIOLET CARE" - 25 minute video by Don Geiss is a good introduction to growing African Violets.

DVD

207 DL "A FIESTA OF VIOLETS" - 2004 DVD - Award winning exhibits from the 2004 AVSA Convention and Show in Tucson, AZ.

209 DL "VIOLETS REIGN IN THE QUEEN CITY," 2005 DVD of the AVSA Convention & Show in Cincinnati, OH.

New

PACKETS

1. Packets are loaned for a period of one month, as available.
2. Requests for two or more packets will be filled whenever possible.
3. Packets must be returned postpaid by FIRST, THIRD, OR FOURTH CLASS MAIL.
4. Cost of each packet is $3.00 and must be paid by check to AVSA at time of request.

DESCRIPTIVE LIST OF PACKETS

155L JUST FOR FUN PACKET: "Violet Carol" Christmas skit in one act. A fun way to celebrate the holidays with a skit performed by your club members. This is an original skit written by Kent Stork of Kent's Flowers, Fremont, NE, and donated to the AVSA Library.

156L NEWSLETTER/MAGAZINE PACKET: Anyone desiring to start a newsletter or magazine would find this packet helpful.

157L PROGRAM-PLANNING PACKET: Suggestions to help a program chairman or committee plan the programs for a club's activities.

158L SHOW SCHEDULES PACKET: Show schedules of African violet shows from different sections of the country. Excellent for new ideas and those clubs planning their first show.

159L YEARBOOK COLLECTION PACKET: This packet contains yearbooks from various affiliate clubs. Especially recommended for clubs producing their first yearbook.

192L INSTALLATION PACKET: A collection of different installation programs that will be found interesting and useful for installing your new officers.

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Send requests to the AVSA Office, 2375 North St., Beaumont, Texas 77702. If you do not have an AVSA order form, please include in your request **(1) Name of affiliate, (2) Name of person ordering and person's membership number, (3) Shipping address, (4) Name of slide program or packet, (5) Whether or not cassette (where available) is desired, (6) Date to be shown.** Order forms are included in shipment for future use.

SLIDE PROGRAMS – VIDEO TAPES

1. Make request for reservation three (3) months in advance of date desired with information outlined above. Give first, second, and third choices of slide programs for each reservation date.
2. Slide programs and video tapes are shipped using a special shipping box. Please use the special box to return the programs to the AVSA office immediately after scheduled reserved date. Return by UPS or First Class Mail only. For First Class, we request that you insure the program for $50.00. If you use UPS, the package is automatically insured for $100.00. For members in other countries: please return programs postpaid by the safest and most expeditious postal means available.

A $5.00 PER WEEK PENALTY WILL BE ASSESSED FOR ANY PROGRAM NOT POSTMARKED WITHIN FOUR (4) DAYS AFTER SCHEDULED RESERVED DATE, UNLESS OTHER ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE.

Return programs to: **AVSA OFFICE**
2375 NORTH STREET • BEAUMONT, TEXAS 77702

3. Special requests for two or more slide programs for the same date may be made and will be filled when possible, but such requests are not encouraged because of the great demand for slide programs and the limited number available.
4. The cost of slide program with cassette is $10.00, and the cost of a slide program without cassette is $8.00. Only those slide programs in the descriptive list with a "(C)" after the titles have cassettes. Those programs may be reserved with or without the cassettes. Cost of video and DVD programs are $10.00.

Showcase

Optimara EverPraise

Exhibited by: **Tony Hulleman**
Hybridized by: **Holtkamp**
Large

Photo Credit: **Winston J. Goretsky**

B-Man's Caltanisetta

Exhibited & Hybridized by:
Bruno Curcuruto
Large

Photo Credit: **Winston J. Goretsky**

Photo Credit: **Winston J. Goretsky**

Kandy Kitchen

Exhibited & Hybridized by: **Kent Stork**

Large Standard

MAKING CHEMICAL DECISIONS WITH MSDS

by Dr. Tammy L. Turner

When I began growing African violets, I knew nothing of the pests and diseases that can plague them. A more experienced grower once said to me, "It's not a matter of *if* you will ever encounter pests/diseases, it's always a matter of *when* you will encounter them. If you grow violets long enough, you WILL have to deal with these things." She was correct. In the years I have been growing, I have encountered cyclamen mites, foliar and soil mealy bugs, thrips, and powdery mildew. When these problems occur, the grower has a couple of choices. One choice is to toss the plants and start over, depending on the severity of the situation and the problem that has manifested. The other choice is to select a course of treatment and try to save the collection. Either is viable, and only the individual grower can determine what their collection is worth to them and what they are willing to spend in terms of money and time in order to save it.

Typically, I have chosen to treat problems. My primary concerns have been finding the most effective treatment and knowing as much as I can about the chemical(s) used for treatment. Toxicity levels of chemicals should be a concern for anyone who uses them. Unfortunately, there seem to be those on "both sides of the fence" in regard to chemicals. Some seem to pay little attention to labels and do not take proper precautions, while others are terrified to use a chemical in their home to treat their plants. Some fear the use of any chemical treatment because they have children or pets living in their house, or they simply are concerned about the effects of the chemicals on their own health.

I always have advocated information as the starting point for these types of decisions. It's best to have the information and understand it before making a decision. I have found that relatively few people know how to go about obtaining such information or how to decipher it if obtained. I am not advocating or discouraging the use of chemicals. I simply wish to share some information that I hope will be helpful to anyone in a situation where they must make a choice concerning the use of chemicals.

Chemical manufacturers provide something known as a Manufacturer's Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) for chemicals they produce. Numerous MSDS sheets are available online. My advice is to secure a MSDS for any chemical you are contemplating for use on your plants. Toxicity levels, both oral (ingested) and dermal (skin contact), are listed on the sheets. LD50 numbers are a means of rating toxicity levels. You may be thinking, "I'm not a chemist, so how will I ever know what these numbers mean and how to use them in assessing what I consider to be safe or unsafe for my family?" I have included some information I found in Melvin Robey's book, African Violets: Gifts from Nature to help explain. The chart clearly outlines toxicity levels based on both oral and dermal LD50 ratings.

LD50 RATING

CLASSIFICATION	ORAL	DERMAL	Probable lethal oral dose of pesticide, for an adult, consumed directly from the container
Highly Toxic	50 or less	0 to 200	a "pinch" to 1 teaspoon
Moderately Toxic	51 to 500	201 to 2,000	1 teaspoon to 2 tablespoons
Low Toxicity	501 to 5,001	2,001 to 20,000	1 ounce to 1 pint (1 pound
Relatively free from danger*	5,001 or greater	20,001 or greater	1 pint to 1 quart (2 pounds)

*NO pesticide is ever 100 % safe, regardless of its LD50 values

Here is a sampling of LD50 ratings from various chemicals used to treat pests/diseases in African violets.

AVID (miticide)
Oral LD50 – 300 (moderate toxicity)
Dermal LD50 – 1,800 (moderate toxicity)

Marathon (insecticide)
Oral LD50 – greater than 4820 (very low toxicity)
Dermal LD50 – greater than 2,000 (low toxicity)

Malathion (insecticide)
Oral LD50 – 1,300 (low toxicity)
Dermal LD50 – 4,500 (low toxicity)

Pyrethrins (insecticide)
ORAL LD 50 – 1,500 (low toxicity)
Dermal LD50 – 1,800 (moderate toxicity)

Di-Syston (insecticide)
ORAL LD50 – 6-12 (high toxicity)
Dermal LD50 – 10 (high toxicity)

Typically, pesticide labeling is based on the chemical's acute oral LD50 rating. Class I pesticides have an oral LD50 rating of up to 50 and have "Danger" on the label. Class II pesticides have an oral LD50 rating from 51 to 500 and will bear labels reading "Warning". Class III pesticides have an oral LD50 rating of 501 to 5,000. Class IV pesticides have an oral LD50 rating of over 5,001. MSDS sheets also contain information concerning what action to take if a chemical is ingested, has come in contact with the skin, or has been inhaled.

The use of chemicals to treat a pest or disease is an important decision. I recommend considering these situations before they occur so that you will have a plan for how you will deal with them when they occur. I found an excellent website organized by manufacturer name that contains a multitude of MSDS sheets. You will need to know the manufacturer of the chemical you are using/considering to use this page, but such information is easily obtainable via the internet. The website address is: http://www.cdms.net/manuf/manuf.asp?t=0. Armed with this information, you can make an informed decision that is best for both your family and your African violets.

Petrocosmea

by Bob Clark

One of the most advancing Gesneriads grown in the home is *Petrocosmea flaccida* (note the spelling). It is the most commonly grown species of this fibrous rooted shade-loving genus from the cool limey rock mountains of southern China. Petrocosmeas all grow in rosette form, and most grow in very symmetrical rosettes of perfectly overlapping leaves. Indeed, some have foliage so dense that flower spikes have a difficult time getting through the "canopy." Petrocosmea flaccida has dark lavender flowers that resemble some of Jimmy Dates' wasp flowered African violets. Although they do not flower as long or as often as African violets, petrocosmeas can put up several peduncles of bloom several times a year. However, most of the time, they have a seasonal flush of bloom in the spring with the lengthening daylight hours. Even when these plants are not in bloom, they are a lovely plant to regard, with their often hairy, fuzzy symmetrical form. Petrocosmeas enjoy cooler conditions than most African violets, and I grow mine in a north-facing window with my Streptocarpus, another cool loving Gesneriad. They have a VERY shallow root system and should never be potted in a standard sized pot since there would be much too much water retained in the soil, promoting root fungal infections and rot. I use a light mix with plenty of perlite and add generous amounts of Dolomite lime pellets. Let them dry out slightly between watering. They don't want to sit in water, just like African violets and other Gesneriads.

These plants also show up in many African violet and Gesneriad shows in classes for plants grown for ornamental foliage. The hairy or shiny foliage in perfect rosettes certainly do earn them ribbons in this part of the show. They are simply lovely, and one of my favorites.

Other species of *Petrocosmea* commonly grown are:

- *Petrocosmea barbata* (with white flowers).
- *Petrocosmea begoniifolia*; whose foliage is very textured and quilted.
- *Petrocosmea formosa*; with large lavender flowers.
- *Petrocosmea forrestii*; with hairy foliage.
- *Petrocosmea kerrii*; the largest growing species, also with white flowers.
- *Petrocosmea minor*; shiny, hairless bright green foliage, it almost looks like a Sedum.
- *Petrocosmea nervosa*; similar in form to P. flaccida, but with flatter growing foliage.
- *Petrocosmea parryorum*; heart shaped leaves with many multi-branching flower spikes.
- *Petrocosmea* 'Momo'; this is the only known hybrid between *P. nervosa* and *P. flaccida*.

This is a relatively new genus, having been discovered in 1880, and not being widely distributed in the United States until late in the 1950's. The name *Petrocosmea* is based on the two Greek words for "Rock" and "Pretty." I hope you are able to obtain one of these "pretty rock" plants and enjoy them!

Showcase

Stephanie Croteau

Exhibited by: **Robin Cotton**
Hybridized by: **D. Croteau**
Standard

Photo Credit: **Winston J. Goretsky**

Streptocarpus 'Guidelines'

Exhibited & Hybridized by:
David Thompson

Photo Credit: **Winston J. Goretsky**

Photo Credit: **Winston J. Goretsky**

Botanika

Exhibited by: **Dale Martens**

Small Talk

Laurel D. Goretsky
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The commercial area of the 2005 AVSA National Show, like the amateur horticulture area, was wonderful to behold. I am always so impressed with the commercial display tables. I find it difficult some years to find two or three decent show plants. The commercial entries for the display tables must contain 15 plants with three, all of the same type – miniatures, semiminiatures or mini and semi mini trailers, counting as one unit (taken from the rules and regulations from the 2005 show schedule). What this means is that if you are putting together a commercial display with any minis or semi minis, you need 45 plants. Other gesneriads are permitted, but 75% of the display table must be made up of African violets. These rules apply to miniature and semiminiature varieties only. The commercial display tables using standard plants have different criteria. What a tremendous effort this must be for the commercial growers who choose to enter a display table with minis or semiminis! Your effort is appreciated.

Dr. Ralph Robinson had a good showing in the commercial division again this year. He won 2nd best in African violet with 'Rob's Calypso Beat'. This semiminiature plant has a beautiful semidouble bright pink blossom with blue fantasy markings against medium-dark green colored leaves. Dr. Robinson has had success with this variety in past shows. Last year, he received the best African violet in show (commercial) with a 'Rob's Calypso Beat'. This year, Dr. Robinson also won the best AVSA collection (mini/semimini). The semiminiature plants in this collection were 'Rob's Calypso Beat', 'Rob's Hand Puppet', and 'Rob's Boogie Woogie'. 'Rob's Hand Puppet' is a stunning chimera with a pink stick-tite pansy/medium blue stripe blossom on dark green leaves. 'Rob's Boogie Woogie', another show favorite, has semidouble medium shell pink pansy blossoms against green and tan-beige crown variegation.

Tried and true varieties stood out at this year's convention in both the amateur and commercial horticulture divisions. I enjoyed seeing the mix in the types of plants chosen to show. It is important to keep good-growing varieties around regardless of whether they were introduced recently or many years ago.

One highlight in the area of "newer" varieties was 'Cupid's Jewel'. This plant won Best New Cultivar, Semiminiature African violet for Paul Sorano of Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses. 'Cupid's Jewel' is a gem of a plant with semidouble and double pale plum stars with darker plum in the eye of the blossom on medium green, serrated foliage. This is a plant that is sure to be one to watch for at future conventions.

As I mentioned last time, I was able to acquire the three plants on my wish list and many more varieties. When the showroom doors open to us, I often take my time going through and choosing plants that I would like to purchase. Then, when the salesroom is open, I take my list and try to find either a plant or a leaf to purchase. One plant that I was eager to acquire after seeing it in the showroom was 'Rob's Magnetic Field'. This plant grabbed my attention with its chimera blossom (pink with a dark blue stripe) and the dark green girl foliage makes this plant especially striking. I was thrilled to find it to add to my collection. Three other plants that I brought home are new varieties (all semiminiatures) from Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses. First, 'High Jinks' has a lovely blossom that is a semi-double light lavender/pink with blue fantasy streaks. The foliage is medium green. 'Strawberry Parfait' has a coral-pink, single and semidouble pansy blossom with darker pink veining. The leaves are tailored and dark green. Also, 'Velvet Gem' has a dark burgundy double pansy blossom with fantasy streaks. I am eager to see how the above varieties will grow in my conditions.

Two hybridizers that had miniature and semiminiatures featured in the 2005 show are George McDonald and Shirley Sanders. George McDonald's plants had the prefix of 'Mac's', ,and one new introduction that comes to mind is 'Mac's Black Jack'. Shirley Sanders from Shirley's House of Violets had a few plants to watch for as well, such as 'Shirl's Firecracker',

'Shirl's Touch o' Pink', and 'Shirl's Grape Ice'.

One thing I definitely remember about the new introductions is that the plants looked great and are varieties that I will be eager to purchase. Each convention has something new and wonderful to offer. I am already anticipating the 2006 convention in Minnesota. To all the hybridizers out there, keep the miniatures and semiminiatures coming!

Summer has gone by quickly, and some of us are getting back into our normal routines. I enjoy the summer but also look forward to our club meetings again and being back into a regular care schedule for my plants.

My thoughts are turning to possible show plants in my collection and what I need to pot up or repot. I will also re-evaluate which plants need to go to a new home and which I will keep. I may take a plant or two to a senior's residence or get involved with a school and show a group of students how an African violet can be started from a leaf. It is fun to share our passion for African violet growing and in the process, maybe gain some new friends. Have a wonderful fall season!

Location: http://www.avsa.org

What is New (and Notable)on the AVSA Web Site?

Jim Owens, AVSA Web Master

I want to bring to your attention two new features that have been added to the AVSA web site. First, we have added the ***Library Materials*** to the AVSA Library page. To access the library list, click on the words "View available **Library Materials**". A new window will open. At the top of the page are the rules for using library materials, information on requesting them, and the address where materials are to be returned. Following this information is the list of materials you can order for your club's viewing. At the bottom of the page are the words "Click here to submit a request for library materials". The submission form is a two page (Acrobat Reader) formatted document which you can fill in on your computer. The first page describes the materials you want to order with second and third choices. The second page provides you with the ability to fill in credit card information for material fees. After you have filled in the form, you have the choice of printing the form for reference, printing and mailing the form to the AVSA office, or e-mailing the form directly to the AVSA office. (*Note: if you maximize the window it is easier to scroll to the verbiage.)*

Secondly, we have added the **Russian Varieties** to the Photographs page. To access a table of Russian varieties, click on the words "Explore the Russian Varieties". Currently, two Russian hybridizers, **Boris Makouni** and **Natalia Pouminova** are contained in the list, and more will be added as they become available. Clicking on the hybridizer's name will take you to the beginning of that hybridizer's list. There you will find their favorite plants in table form with the Russian Name, the Translated Name, the Description, and a link to a photograph of the plant (where available). This list is compiled and provided to us by Irina Lavrentieva. She is currently adding to and updating the list as time permits. At the bottom of the list is a link to the Russian Forum. Even if you do not read/write Russian, Irina informs me that you can ask a question and receive an answer in English. If you haven't discovered this web site feature already, I am sure you will thoroughly enjoy this adventure. The blossoms are so big! We are grateful to Irina for her efforts in bringing us this valuable reference.

To read the AVSA Convention "Chatter", go to AVSA.org, click on the National Convention tab, then on "Report on the 2005 AVSA Convention"

Design

"Riverfest"
Designed by: **Olive Ma Robinson**

Photo Credit: **Winston J. Goretsky**

"Adventure in King's Island"
Exhibited by: **Janey Reddell**

Photo Credit: **Winston J. Goretsky**

"A Good Member"

Bev Promersberger - *Affiliate Committee*
7992 Otis Way
Pensacola, FL 32506
Email: Promers22@hotmail.com

A violet dislikes the "flood and drought" syndrome. The tiny roots of the African violet do not like to be flooded with water, completely dried out, and flooded again. They prefer constant light moisture. Clubs can easily be compared to the same syndrome. They need "good" members to thrive and prosper. They need members who do not come and go, who are not present sometimes and absent more often, who work together to do the jobs that need to be done. The following are the bee's of being a good club member, of making a club grow.

Bee dedicated. Support the principles and purposes of the club and AVSA. Support what is best for the club, not your own personal interests or agenda.

Bee a member of AVSA. The magazine that you receive as a member of AVSA has a wealth of information about growing and showing.

It is a necessary compliment to affiliate programs and activities if you really want to learn how to grow African violets.

Bee knowledgeable. Read and stay up-to-date on the bylaws and the standing rules presented by your club.

Bee open minded. Once you have expressed your views, be open to others' ideas and opinions. Accept the desires of the majority of the club. Be willing to accept changes that are better for the club.

Bee a grower. Have a strong desire to grow beautiful and healthy African violets and/or other gesneriads. Strive to improve cultural practices and eliminate problems.

Bee caring. In other words, be tactful, considerate, and thoughtful of others and their opinions.

Bee an encourager. Encourage others to grow, to become club members, and to enjoy the hobby. Greet new guests and visitors. Be friendly, interested, and helpful to guests, visitors, and new members and let them see a "friend". Showing that you care makes visitors feel wanted, and sharing what you know makes them feel that being a member will help them accomplish what they came for – to become better growers.

Bee on time. Set an example to be prompt and ready for the meeting to begin at the scheduled time. When members are not present, the president hesitates to begin the meeting. Eventually, members plan on arriving late because they know that the meeting will begin late. It's a vicious circle that cannot be encouraging to new members. No one likes to waste their precious time waiting for others. Long-time members love to use the beginning time to chat with friends, but not everyone has the time or desire to wait.

Bee a participant. Grow to sell and/or show so that you understand the hobby. Participate in the club sales by working and/or by contributing plants for the sale.

Bee regular in attendance. In other words, attend the meetings and club activities regularly. We all have other obligations: family, work, etc. Sometimes they interfere. Make sure that the meetings, shows, and sales are marked on your calendar so that, if possible, other responsibilities can be scheduled at alternate times. If you don't mark it, you will most likely forget it.

Bee informed. When you can't attend a meeting for some reason, be sure to find out what you missed. Check to see if there is any upcoming event that needs your help, if you are to bring something or do something at the next meeting. Often, clubs have annual yearbooks that list what the agenda is for each meeting. Look it over before each meeting to make sure that you have not forgotten something.

To be continued . . .

I want to thank everyone that attended the Affiliate meeting at the Ohio convention. I hope you had fun with our presentation and will try it with your own club. I hope you gained some new ideas for publicity and will take the opportunity to use them. These ideas will all be shared in a column at a future date. Remember to send the name of your new president and address to the AVSA Office for the listing to be posted on the website.

Wasps and Bustles, The "Newest" Fashion in African Violets

by Nancy Robitaille
Montreal North, QC, Canada

Wasps and bustles? Have we fallen through a time tunnel and landed in Victorian times? Can't you just see the parade of ladies with wasp waists in beautiful long dresses with frilly bustles in back?

No, we're actually speaking of wasp flowers and bustled foliage, and we're right back here in our own time in our African violet world.

Whatever is a wasp flower? Jimmy Dates discovered this type of blossom way back in 1957 so we can't claim it is the "newest" fad in African violets. Matter of fact is that we don't even see wasp flowers and bustled leaves very often in our shows. Just what is this phenomenon?

Dates described the wasp flower in this way: "The upper two petals are thread-like and fluted up and backward. The lower petals are deeply cut, reminiscent of individual petals." Dr. Jeff Smith mentions that, "in the dozen or so wasp plants that I've seen in bloom, I believe the petals are usually disconnected, especially when compared to non-wasp flowers."

Tina M. of Washington State, grower of over thirty varieties of wasp plants and moderator of the Loveforwasp Forum on Yahoo Groups remarks: "I have found a wasp blossom actually comes in a variety of shapes. Some are very deeply cut star type blossoms; others are fluted or a combination. There is not just one type of wasp blossom. I do prefer the Dates type." (Editor's Note: Be sure to read "The Wonderful World of Wasps" by Tina Moreno, page 41, July/August 2002 AVM)

This photo of blossoms of Pink Wasp clearly shows the fluted upper petals and deeply cut lower petals of the wasp bloom type. Photo by Tina M., Moderator of the Loveforwasp group. Photos reproduced with permission of Loveforwasp members.

When asked about wasp blossoms, Dr. Jeff Smith said, "I've seen quite a bit of variety in the shape of (wasp) flowers. Some of the flowers on 'Celery', for example, are often rolled into tubes and look like little trumpets. When wasp is combined with star shaped flowers, such as in 'Lunar Lily,' you get five highly rolled petals that look like tubes radiating from a common point. If you see a picture of a double flowered wasp ... the center petals (are) a tuft on top and the five outer (ones are) wasp petals. All of these are variations of the basic wasp bloom."

What forms of plants have wasp flowers? You have a large choice of standards, compact standards, miniatures, semiminiatures, and trailers. Flower colors offered with these plants runs the gamut. Look for white, plenty of blues and purples, pinks, white or green edged, fantasy - there's even a chimera.

Wasp flowers usually, but not always, have bustled foliage. There are wasps without bustles, but no bustled foliage has been noted without wasp flowers. Now what is bustled foliage? Bustled foliage has compound leaves with two leaflets attached at the base of the blade on the back side.

These wasp plants are a bit unruly and should be judged in shows accordingly and not for perfect symmetry as other African violets are judged. Not all wasp plants are suited for showing, but, in fact, could very well be shown in the educational exhibit. Judges should also be aware of mottling or birth marking of foliage on the underside.

What are the red splotches on the backs of some foliage?

Dr. Jeff Smith: " Some (wasp) plants have the dominant gene to make a red pigment on the back of leaves. The amount of red pigment is controlled by the light intensity. In lower light levels (such as caused by overlapping foliage), the red backing will be more like spots. In more open bright light, the red backing should cover the entire leaf. These plants can mutate and produce blotched leaves with variable amounts of red backing. This is sometimes called 'birth spots.' In these cases, the entire plant is genetically unstable and variation can occur between the various leaves and in the flower so that none of the leaves are exactly alike. Birth spots are easiest to detect when a plant with solid red backed leaves starts to produce blotched leaves and the blotching is independent of the amount of light. If the amount of red backing varies according to the light, then the plant has only one dose of the red backed leaf trait and is showing incomplete expression of the trait."

Why has there been no other mutant bloom other than

wasp? Do you consider green edges, for example, as a mutant?

Dr. Jeff Smith: "Technically, anything besides single pansy blues are mutant flowers. Star shaped flowers would be another bloom shape mutant similar to wasp flowers. Double flowers are mutations as are all of the other colors and edge markings."

The petals of the deep blue blooms of Royal Wasp also demonstrate the characteristics that distinguish the wasp type. Photo by Tina M., Loveforwasp.

History of Wasps and Bustles

In 1957, Jimmy Dates obtained a plant called 'Bustles' from a Mrs. Hotchkiss in Peoria, Illinois.

This was a sport of 'Purple Prince'. Flowers were purple and foliage showed compound or bustled leaves. The petals were fluted and thread-like. Jimmy Dates first registered the new introduction, 'Pink Wasp', in 1964.

Jimmy Dates produced 60 varieties of African violets, 15 of which are registered. Of the 60 varieties, 38 are wasps and/or bustled foliage.

Culture of Wasp African Violets

The culture of plants with wasp flowers and/or bustled foliage is the same as for any other African violet. Some growers prefer to use a lighter soil mix and to use higher humidity for these plants. They say the extra humidity helps keep down the suckering and may help the foliage behave. Light conditions are the same as for every other violet. Wasps may be grown in natural light or under artificial fluorescent bulbs. Depending on the leaf, a few wasps may take longer to produce babies, and some plants are slow growers.

Hybridizers of Wasps and/or Bustled Foliage

Gesneriad seed, like begonia seed, is rounded if fertile and will roll, while sterile seed have a flat side which inhibits rolling. So once a pod is dried and opened over a piece of folded white paper seeds fall out. Tilt the paper slightly and fertile seed will roll to the fold. Then this can be emptied into a seed container for propagation.

This photo of Seedling wtl, a white blossomed plant, shows the reverse of a bustled leaf. Can you make out the small bustles (arrows) at the base of the leaf? Photo by David, Loveforwasp.

Another distinguishing value of seed is the color. Black seed are usually fertile, and brown are sterile. Some hybridizers of wasp and/or bustled foliage are: Lyndon Lyon, Fay Wagman, S. Lang, A. Stephens, Domiano/Nadeau, Rader, C. Carter, Holtkamp and, of course, Jimmy Dates. A group interested in keeping these plants from future extinction are busy hybridizing as well. This group meets regularly via the Internet and holds active trade of notes, data, conquests, and failures as well as a leaf exchanges on a group site called Love for Wasp. This may be accessed by going to Yahoo Groups and searching for Love for Wasp or go to: http://groups.yahoo.com/group/loveforwasp/. (Editor's Note: You will have to register for Yahoo Groups to access this site if you are not already a member of Yahoo Groups. As Love for Wasp is 'Members Only', you will also have to apply for membership in Loveforwasp to go beyond the home page.)

One hybridizer on the Loveforwasp forum shares these thoughts with other hybridizers and growers of wasps. David in California: "If I'm looking at the foliage, I'll only grow them when I can see if the leaves are going to have the traits I'm looking for - you can see this pretty early on in most cases. When it's the blooms that I'm looking for, I grow all of them I possibly can (You never know which one is going to be THE one). I discovered quite by accident that growing the seedlings in a covered container slows and stunts their growth. (This also works well if you want to grow other violets smaller than their normal size.) I've got about 200 babies from a single 'yellow' cross that are in various stages of development. Some have already bloomed; others are still tiny and in the community tray. The hardest thing for me is ruthlessly culling the ones that don't meet my hybridizing objective - almost all of them are interesting or pretty in one way or another, and it's just tough to throw any of them away .... limited shelf space to the rescue..."

From *Chatter*, publication of the AVS of Canada

Violet Club Records Management

Janet Riemer, *AVSA Archivist*

Is your violet club overwhelmed with "stuff?" Does the group have papers and memorabilia so scattered among members that no one knows what is where? Do you wonder what should be kept and what can be discarded? Here are some tips that might help.

Records:

The bylaws adopted by a group and the minutes of meetings are the primary records of an organization. Usually, they are kept by the secretary who may be asked to refer to them to clarify what was decided upon at a specified time. For easy access, the minutes are usually arranged in chronological order. Since they illustrate the development of an organization, they are of historical importance and are very helpful to anyone writing a history of the group.

The treasurer's reports are important financial records, usually kept by the treasurer and again, in chronological order. These too may have historical importance as they show the financial health of the organization. For tax purposes, some records such as bank statements, checks, and receipts need to be kept for five to seven years and can then be discarded. There is no need to keep postage receipts and telephone bills from 25 years ago!

Important documents should be photocopied on to archival paper and stored in a location other than that of the originals. The purpose of this is to try to assure preservation in case of a disaster to one of the locations. If documents exist only on a computer, a back-up should always be made to avoid accidental loss.

Publications:

Materials that are compiled for distribution to all members for their information and/or education, may be considered publications. An example is an annual yearbook which may include the programs planned for the year and a list of the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of all the members. For many years, AVSA included a display of affiliate yearbooks at the convention show. They were judged and ribbons were awarded to the best. This was discontinued several years ago when the ability of some affiliates to use computer assistance made judging less relevant. Whether you call this information a yearbook or not, these annual listings should be kept as they document the activities of the group and identify the members over time. If your group has a historian or an archivist, he/she is the person who would logically be responsible for these items.

Some violet groups, particularly regional societies and councils, also distribute newsletters which are compiled on a more or less regular schedule. These serve as program announcements, report on show results, and often include articles of helpful tips for growing African violets. They too should be kept by a historian or archivist.

Many clubs publicize their shows and exhibits in the local newspaper. Clippings are then frequently kept in scrapbooks. Unfortunately, the paper on which newspapers are printed is notoriously short-lived. The lignin in wood pulp, a major ingredient in newsprint, darkens in sunlight in a matter of hours, and the inherent acidity of the paper causes rapid deterioration. The best way to preserve the information in a newspaper clipping is to photocopy the article of interest on to archival paper and discard the original. If the original is retained, it will stain whatever is adjacent to it as it ages.

Show Memorabilia:

Those clubs that stage a show and/or exhibit each year usually have a show schedule or program which informs the public of the theme, classes of exhibits, and rules. These are often kept and may be displayed on anniversaries or other special events. Sometimes the schedules are mounted in a scrapbook. If this is done, be sure to use a scrapbook with archival pages such as those sold for scrapbooking. The old-fashioned kind of scrapbook has pages that contain acid which will darken and become brittle with age and so should be avoided. Hinge the items so that the back pages can be read. Do not use rubber cement as that deteriorates quickly, loses its adhesiveness, and permanently stains the mounted items. Also avoid pressure sensitive tape such as magic tape as that too causes stains. The safest means of attachment are inert plastic photograph corners. Scrapbooks are very difficult to keep in good condition for long periods of time. Filing items in acid-free file folders and an archival box provides greater longevity.

Photographs:

Black and white and color prints are often used to record the activities of a club, winning plants and their exhibitors, and designs and their creators. Prints, like schedules, are often placed in albums. If so, be sure that the plastic pockets of the album are chemically inert. The plastic should be polypropylene or polyester, not polyvinyl chloride. The latter, in a humid environment, breaks down and combines with the moisture in the air to form hydrochloric acid which deteriorates the images.

Be sure to avoid those so-called "magnetic" albums. These have pages with thin lines of adhesive covered with a sheet of plastic that is peeled back to insert the photographs. The adhesive can be very harmful as it is absorbed by the photograph back and permanently adheres the photograph to the page. The photographs cannot be safely removed, the adhesive discolors, and the photographs are ruined.

Many clubs have collections of 35mm color slides. These are frequently used for programs. Rather than keeping them in the boxes in which they were returned from processing where they have to be handled individually to be viewed, it is wise to individually label them and place them in the pockets of polyester or polypropylene pages specifically designed for slides. There they are protected from finger prints and viewing is simplified.

Photographs, both film based and digital, may also be kept loose, but if so, polyester or polypropylene sleeves help to provide needed protection while still maintaining visibility. Be sure to identify all photographs with names of people shown, date, and event. This identification can be adjacent to a mounted image or on the back of the photograph. Write with a soft pencil or an ultra-fine "Sharpie" at the top or the bottom of the photograph back, not across the middle where it might bleed through to the face. Avoid using a ball point pen as the indentations from the pen will deface the image.

Storage Environment:

The preservation of all of the records mentioned above is greatly influenced by the environment in which the records are stored. If they are kept in an air-conditioned living area, they will last far longer than if they are kept in an attic where the temperature fluctuates greatly or in a basement where the relative humidity is often high. High temperatures cause paper to become brittle, and dampness causes mold and mildew. Try to aim for a temperature around 70° F. and a relative humidity of around 50%. Light can be detrimental, especially to color photographs which should be stored in a cool, dark, dry location. Whatever is in intimate contact with a document, publication, or photograph may preserve or destroy it. File folders with an alkaline reserve and archival boxes can make a huge difference in longevity.

Summary:

Some records need to be kept for legal reasons (such as a contract), others for financial reasons. Some may be kept just for the enjoyment and education of the members. Whatever is kept should be organized so that an item can be found, if needed. An inventory is useful for that purpose. Such a list is called a finding aid by archivists.

Often summaries can be compiled to replace bulky papers (such as show entry information), and annual reports may adequately substitute for huge packets of monthly data. Making available and preserving the records of a violet club can be very rewarding to the person who performs those tasks and to all the club members as they learn to appreciate their group's history.

If the AVSA archivist can be of further assistance, send an e-mail message to j_riemer@comcast.net. Below are some sources of archival storage materials.

Conservation Resources International, Inc.
8000-H Forbes Place
Springfield, VA 22151
800-634-6932
www. conservationresources.com

Gaylord Brothers
Box 4901
Syracuse, NY 13221-4901
800-448-6160
www.Gaylord.com

University Products, Inc.
P.O. Box 101
Holyoke, MA 01041-0101
800-336-4847
www.universityproducts.com

Light Impressions (photographic supplies)
P.O. Box 787
Brea, CA 92822-0787
800-828-6216
www.lightimpressionsdirect.com

Stillwater: The Birthplace of Minnesota

by Ruth Bann

Nestled among the bluffs of the beautiful St. Croix River and located just 20 miles east of St. Paul is the city called Stillwater. More than a hundred years of rich history has placed Stillwater on the National Registry of Historic Places.

One of Stillwater's Historic Tours is a Trolley Tour that will be available to members of AVSA in the 2006 Minneapolis Convention. The narrated tour runs daily beginning at 10:00 am. It cruises down hills and narrow streets in a "roller coaster" ride as it travels through Stillwater providing a view of churches and many homes built in the 1800's. The web site of the Trolley Tours is www.stillwatertrolley.com/tours/narr_tours.html

Stillwater was the site of the State's Territorial Convention and remained a thriving logging town into the 1800's. It is the oldest town in Minnesota. The older part of Stillwater is found along Main Street. Here you will find the Antique Shops, Taverns, Office Buildings, and Restaurants that were once a rooming house, or a railroad building, or a saloon, or a brewery or a theater. Be sure to look at the old lift bridge over the St Croix River. Can you just imagine what it must be like in rush hour traffic? It is still used today, but it will soon become a thing of the past as a new bridge is in the plans to be built a short way down river.

Make time to enjoy the Minneapolis Convention and a trip to Stillwater.

"And the winners are ..."

Mary J. Corondan
7205 Dillon Court
Plano, TX 75024

AVC OF BURLINGTON COUNTY, NJ – Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Harbor Blue, Phantom Flash, Lela Marie; Best Species: *Saintpaulia ionantha*; Best Design; Horticulture Sweepstakes; Design Sweepstakes, **Susan Arnao.** 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Coral Kiss, Fredette's Moonflower, Ma's Debutante; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Boo Man, Ness' Crinkle Blue, Cupid's Kiss; Best in Show/Best Trailer: Rob's Galiwinku; Best Semiminiature: Cupid's Kiss; Best Gesneriad: *Chirita* 'Kazu', **Sandy Skalski.** 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Pride of Columbus, Irish Flirt, Ness' Cranberry Swirl; Best Miniature: Orchard's Bumble Magnet, **Florence Murphy.** Best Standard: Victorian Parasol, **Laurel Brown.**

AVC OF MORRIS COUNTY, PA – Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Ness' Snow Clouds, Optimara Tradition, Ness' Candy Pink; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Cool Blue, Ness' Sno Fun, Rebel's Meg; Best in Show/Best Trailer: Champagne Pink; Best Standard: Apache Thunderbolt; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Bob Kurzynski.** 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: *Saintpaulia grandifolia, Saintpaulia orbicularis, Saintpaulia rupicola*, **Judy Padalino.** Best Semiminiature: Snuggles Little Dreamer, **Emilia Rykowski.** Best Miniature: Orchard's Bumble Magnet; Best Species: *Saintpaulia rupicola*; Best Design, **Jill Fischer.** Best Gesneriad: *Petrocosmea minor*; Design Sweepstakes, **Karen Cichocki.**

AVS OF ROCHESTER, NY – Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: *Saintpaulia grandifolia #299, Saintpaulia ionantha, Saintpaulia orbicularis*; Best Species: *Saintpaulia ionantha*; Best Gesneriad: *Dalbergaria sanguinea*, **Olive Ma Robinson.** Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Jitterbug, Rob's Love Bite, Rob's Ice Ripples; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Rob's Calypso Beat; Best Miniature: Rob's Jitterbug, **Ralph Robinson.** 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Cloudy Skies, Optimara Little Moonstone, Gleeful Elf; Best Standard: B-Man's Trapini, **Linda and Charlie Rowe.** Best Trailer: Ramblin' Ruby; Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Barbara Festenstein.** Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Fay Wagman.**

AVS OF SPRINGFIELD, PA – Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: *Saintpaulia nitida, Saintpaulia rupicola, Saintpaulia* House of Amani; Best Species: *Saintpaulia nitida*; Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Joan Santino.** 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Ness' Coral Sunset, Frozen in Time, Optimara Oklahoma; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Crinkle Blue, Optimara Little Inca, Optimara Little Hopi; Best in Show/Best Standard: Frozen in Time; Best Semiminiature: Optimara Little Inca, **Peggy Mooney.** Best Trailer: Tiny Wood Trail; Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Helen O'; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Barbara Jones.**

AVS OF SYRACUSE, NY – Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Optimara EverPraise; Tiger; B-Man's Caltanisetta, **Robin and Bill Yager.** Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Cool Blue, Ness' Firefly, Optimara Little Blackfoot; Best Miniature: Optimara Little Crystal; Best Design, **Donna Coleman.** 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Sassy Sister, Rob's Shadow Magic, Rob's Boondoggle; Best Species: *Saintpaulia nitida*; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Mary Ryan.** Best in Show/Best Trailer: Chantaspring; Best Semiminiature: Irish Flirt; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Gator's Tail', **Lee Hoke.** Best Standard: Wild Irish Rose, **Karen Dupree.** Design Sweepstakes, **Linda Rowe.**

ALBUQUERQUE AVC, NM – Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Picasso, Velvet Frost, Vintage Wine; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Mac's Virtually Velvet, Ness' Satin Rose, Aunt Irene; Best in Show/Best Standard: Picasso; Best Trailer: *Saintpaulia pendula*; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpella*, **Louisa Sando.** 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Optimara Nevada, Bob Serbin, King's Treasure; Best Semiminiature: Little Pro; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Jo Ellen Bowden.** Best Design, **Peggy Atencio.** Design Sweepstakes, **Marty Mitchell.**

BAY STATE AVS, MA – Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: *Saintpaulia grandifolia #299, Saintpaulia grandifolia #237, Saintpaulia pendula* var. *kizarae*; Best Species: *Saintpaulia grandifolia*, **Eleanor MacIver.** 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Simpler Times, Sheer Romance, Tony's Extravaganza, **Susan Gimblet.** Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Ness' Crinkle Blue, **Sharon Rosenweig.** Best Standard: Sheer Romance, **Susan Gimblet.** Best Miniature: Petite Blarney, **Carol Hess.** Best Trailer: Sunrise Waltz; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Nancy Manozzi.** Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Alfred Stark', **Maria Montague.** Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Barbara Vericker.**

CAPITOL CITY AVS, CA – Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Rhapsodie Rosalie II, Rhapsodie Cora, Optimara California; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Little Pueblo, Optimara Little Maya, Ness' Firefly; Best Standard: Rhapsodie Cora; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Bristol's Sunrise'; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Cindi Nofziger.** 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Lyon's Plum Pudding, Silver Brocade, Purple Tempest, **Oscar Faoro.** Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Rob's Boogie Woogie; Design Sweepstakes, **Barbara Elkin.** Best Miniature: Rob's Fo Fum; Best Trailer: Milky Way Trail, **Dianna Peterson.** Best Design, **Mae Mendes.**

CENTRAL JERSEY AVS, NJ – Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Frozen in Time, Splendiferous, Rhapsodie Mary; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Magic Blue, Little Pro, Rob's Fuddy Duddy; Best in Show/Best Standard: Rhapsodie Mary; Best Miniature: Orchard's Bumble Magnet; Best Species: *Saintpaulia grandifolia #299*; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Ronald Ennis.** 2nd Best Standard

Collection: Vince's Choice, Picturesque, Polar Bear, **Annemarie Beardsley.** 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Miss Priss, Ness' Satin Rose, Optimara Little Seminole; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Miss Priss; Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Kee Wee'; Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Jan Murasko.** Best Trailer: Champagne Pink, **Janet Royce.**

EARLY BIRD VC, AL – Winners: Best in Show/Best Standard: Optimara Hiroshige, **Anita Goodall.** 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Blanche Holt, Rebel's Flaming Star, Simpler Times, **Sandra Campbell.** Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Snake Charmer, Rob's Puddy Cat, Rob's Sarsparilla; Best Miniature: Rob's Rinky Dink; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Martha Coleman.** 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Sundown Trail, Marion's Enchanted Trail, Rob's Vanilla Trail; Best Trailer: Marion's Enchanted Trail, **Jerry Goodall.** Best Semiminiature: Rob's Dandy Lion; Best Gesneriad: *Chirita tamiana*, **Nancy Romeo.** Best Species: *Saintpaulia grandifolia*, **Gwen Johnson.** Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Diane Henderson.**

THE EVENING AVC OF DES MOINES, IA – Winners: Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Winnergreen, Rob's Fiddle Faddle, Ness' Crinkle Blue; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Winnergreen; Best Miniature: Rob's Loose Noodle; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **David Taylor.** Best Standard: Dancin' Fool, **Ken Wilkinson.** Best Trailer: Kissaway Trail, **Deb Oelmann.** Best Gesneriad: *Kohleria* 'Dark Velvet'; Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Joan Watts.**

FIRST AVS OF WICHITA FALLS, TX – Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Smooch Me, Ness' Viking Maiden, Lavender Shadow; Best Standard: Smooch Me; Best Design, **Allene Peek.** 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Shirl's New Life, Optimara Kentucky, Tropical Heat Wave; Best Semiminiature: Little Pro; Best Trailer: Deer Trail; Best Species: *Saintpaulia orbicularis*; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Gail Elmore.** Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Rosebud', **Freida Gibson.** Design Sweepstakes (tie), **Freida Gibson and Allene Peek.**

GARDEN STATE AVC, PA – Winners: Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Planet Kid, Rob's Rinky Dink, Petite Jewel, **Lionel Gaylard.** Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Optimara Little Blackfoot; Best Miniature: Mac's Quaintly Quintessential; Best Trailer: Rob's Lilli Pilli; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **George McDonald.** Best Standard: Fisherman's Paradise; Best Design, **Fred Hill.** Best Species: *Saintpaulia grandifolia #299*, **Sheila Ando.** Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Falling Star', **Gail Gray.** Design Sweepstakes, **Barbara McDonald.**

GEORGIA AV JUDGES SOCIETY, GA – Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Buckeye Masterpiece, Apache Diamond, Vintage Wine; Best in Show/Best Standard: Apache Diamond, **Janice Norton.** Best Semiminiature: Lexi's Party Dress; Best Miniature: Petite Fantasy, **Cathy Carter.** Best Trailer: Dancin' Trail, **Jeanette Wallace.** Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpella* 'Blueberries and Cream'; Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Laura Walker.** Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Kathy Spissman.**

HEART OF MISSOURI AVS, MO – Winners: Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Lilli Pilli, Rob's Sticky Wicket, Rob's Miriwinni; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Peggy Payne.** Best in Show/Best Standard: Ma's Second Thoughts; Best Miniature: Planet Kid, **Taylor Show.** Best Trailer: Rob's Boolaroo, **Jean Warren.** Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Bristol's Hop Along'; Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Dorothy Anderson.**

LAKESHORE AVS, ONTARIO – Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Aca's Wewonchu, Optimara EverPraise, Optimara New Mexico, **Tony Hulleman.** 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Harbor Blue, Blushing Ivory, B-Man's Alessio; Best Standard: B-Man's Agrigento, **Bruno Curcuruto.** Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Crinkle Blue, Cupid's Kiss, Aca's Georgene; Best in Show/Best Species: *Saintpaulia ionantha*; Best Trailer: Rob's Vanilla Trail; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Beverley Williams.** Best Semiminiature: Shy Blue, **Marina de Souza.** Best Miniature: Optimara Little Moonstone, **Sandra Lex.** Best Gesneriad: *Chirita linearifolia*, **Carolyn Conlin-Lane.** Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Eleanor Elston.**

LATE BLOOMERS AVC OF SOUTHERN WISCONSIN, WI – Winners: Best in Show/Best Standard: Picasso; Best Design; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Jan Judd.**

MAGIC KNIGHT AVS, TX – Winners: Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Dean's Cupid, Dean's Bunny Blue, Thunder Surprise; Best Gesneriad: *Petrocosmea forrestii*, **Shirley Sanders.** 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Fuzzy Navel, Rob's Fuddy Duddy, Definitely Darryl; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Rob's Fuddy Duddy; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Ken Froboese.** Best Standard: Apache Freedom, **Steven Spachek.** Best Miniature: Texas Space Dust; Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Janey Reddell.** Best Species: *Saintpaulia orbicularis*, **Dea Johnson.**

MEMPHIS AVS, TN – Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Suncoast Lavender Silk, Phantom Flash, Louisiana Lagniappe; Best Species: *Saintpaulia grandifolia #237*; Best Trailer: Rob's Boolaroo; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Geneva Stagg.** Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Hot Chocolate, Rob's Fuddy Duddy, Rob's Inner Orbit; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Rob's Inner Orbit; Best Standard: Frosty Frolic; Best Miniature: Rob's Rinky Dink, **Brenda Brasfield.** Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Lynn Red Ruby'; Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Danny Tidwell.**

METROPOLITAN ST. LOUIS AV COUNCIL, MO – Winners: Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Optimara Little Amethyst, Orchard's Bumble Magnet, Optimara Rose Quartz; Best Miniature: Orchard's Bumble Magnet; Best Gesneriad: *Chirita flavimaculata*; Best Design; Horticulture Sweepstakes; Design Sweepstakes, **Fran Russom.** 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Optimara Little Pueblo, Slow Dancin' Aunt Georgia, **Susan Hapner.** Best in Show/Best Standard: Frozen in Time, **Janet Graves.** Best Semiminiature: Rob's Slap Happy; Best Trailer: Chantaspring, **Marcia Jacobs.** Best Species: *Saintpaulia ionantha*, **Mary Ann Switzer.**

MONCTONIA AVS, NEW BRUNSWICK – Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Jeanie Bell, Moonlight Waves, Mauna Loa; Best Gesneriad: *Chirita* 'Aiko'; Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Eva Belliveau.** Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Jimo, Orchard's Bumble Magnet, Rob's Voodoo Blue; Best in Show/Best Standard: B-Man's Etna; Best Miniature: Rob's Voodoo Blue; Best Trailer: Rob's Gundaroo; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Sharon Bailey.** Best Semiminiature: Little Axel, **Sandy Golding.**

NASA AREA AVS, TX – Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Frozen in Time, Louisiana Lagniappe, Rodeo Pioneer; Best Standard: Frozen in Time; Design Sweepstakes, **Rhona Thurman.** 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Smooch Me, Mary Craig, Wrangler's Dixie Celebration; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Crinkle Blue, Rob's Gizmo, Green Dragon; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Ness' Crinkle Blue; Best Species: *Saintpaulia velutina*; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Gary Thurman.** Best Trailer: Champagne Pink; Best Design, **Onalee McEwen.** Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Orion', **Christine Solomon.**

NORTH STAR AV COUNCIL, MN – Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Optimara Monet, Rebel's Blueberry Ice, Rebel's Minnesota Haze; Best in Show/Best Standard: Rebel's Minnesota Haze, **Gail Podany.** 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Floozie, Rebel's Faith, Rebel's Blaze Spinner; 2nd Best Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Fuzzy Navel, Ness' Crinkle Blue, Precious Pink; Best Miniature: Texas Space Dust; Best Trailer: Rob's Gundaroo; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Ruth Bann.** Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rowdy Ray, Ness' Satin Rose, Ness' Crinkle Blue, **Sandy Officer.** Best Species: *Saintpaulia grandifolia* Mather No. 7; Best Design, **Barbara Werness.** Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Falling Stars', **Sharon Johnson.**

OLD DOMINION AVS, VA – Winners: Best in Show/Best Standard: Optimara Paris, **Michelle Lewis.** Best Semiminiature: Ness' Satin Rose; Best Miniature: Gleeful Elf; Best Trailer: Ramblin' Lace; Best Gesneriad: *Chirita* 'Stardust'; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Jillene Dolister.** Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Laurene Jones.**

OMAHA AVS, NE – Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Buckeye Love's Caress, Tomahawk, Buckeye Concerto; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Crinkle Blue, Rob's Whodunit, Classic Rock; Best in Show/Best Standard: Buckeye Love's Caress; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Kent Stork.** Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Boogie Woogie, Rob's Dust Storm, Rob's Little Pueblo; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Boogie Woogie, **B.J. Ohme.** Best Trailer: Rob's Sticky Wicket, **Joyce Stork.** Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Kee Wee', **Nancy Horan.** Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Mary Jo Bradley.**

OSHKOSH VIOLET SOCIETY, WI – Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Kev's Freckle Face, Kev's Heavenly Star, Rebel's Splatter Kake; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Kid Karla; Best Design; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Kevin Degner.** 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: *Saintpaulia confusa, Saintpaulia diplotricha* Punter #0, *Saintpaulia orbicularis* var. *purpurea*; Best Species: *Saintpaulia orbicularis* var. *purpurea*, **William Greider.** Best Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Crinkle Blue, Irish Flirt, Rob's Boogie Woogie; Best Standard: Frozen in Time; Best Trailer: Enchanting Waterfall; Best Gesneriad: *Chirita* 'Aiko', **Ebe Schreiber.** Best Miniature: Orchard's Bumble Magnet, **Marty Anderson.** Design Sweepstakes, **Betsy Fox.**

OTTAWA AVS, ONTARIO – Winners: Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Wind Chimes, Symphonette, Von's Mariner; Best Gesneriad: *Sinningia* 'Flair', **Lorna Russell.** 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Teen Sweetheart, Rob's Pink Puff, Rob's Slap Happy; Best in Show/Best Trailer: Ramblin' Sunshine; Best Standard: Optimara EverLove; Best Miniature: Toronto Belle; Best Species: *Saintpaulia grotei*; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Bob McCabe.** Best Semiminiature: Mini Papa, **Eileen McGrath.** Best Design, **Jane Lund.** Design Sweepstakes, **Sandy Black.**

QUAD-CITIES AVS, IA – Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Ness' Midnight Fantasy, Ode to Beauty, Phantom Flash, **Cel Schafer.** Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Lemon Cookie, Rob's Little Pueblo, Rob's Gizmo; Best Miniature: Mickey Mouse; Best Trailer: Pixie Blue; Best Design, **LuAnn Christenson.** 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Boogie Woogie, Irish Flirt, Ness' Sno Fun; Best Semiminiature: Bogeyman, **John Jugendeimer.** Best in Show/Best Standard: Heinz's Harbour Lights; Best Gesneriad: *Sinningia* 'Ozark Rosy Cheeks', **Dale Martens.**

SAN MATEO COUNTY AVS, CA – Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Splendiferous, Optimara Ontario, Halo's Aglitter; Best Species: *Saintpaulia velutina* lite; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Tory Hartman.** Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Bed Bug, Rob's Mad Cat, Ness' Crinkle Blue; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Bed Bug, **Peggy Gensel.** 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Optimara Little Crystal, Optimara Rose Quartz, Optimara Little Diamond, **Madeline Taube.** Best in Show/Best Miniature: Optimara Little Moonstone, **Charmion Woolfe.** Best Standard: East Wind, **Thelma Walther.** Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Kee Wee', **Gary Beck.** Best Design, **Sam McKenna.** Design Sweepstakes (tie): **Sam McKenna and Heather Morgan.**

SHO-ME AVC, MO – Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: *Saintpaulia confusa, Saintpaulia grandifolia, Saintpaulia ionantha*; Best Species: *Saintpaulia rupicola* Cha Simba, **Richard Faris.** 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Optimara EverPraise, Optimara Kansas, Optimara Michelangelo; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Sticky Wicket, Rob's Lilli Pilli, Linda Darnel; Best in Show/Best Trailer: Rob's Sticky Wicket; Best Semiminiature: Trinket Summer Skies; Best Miniature: Orchard's Bumble Magnet; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Shirley Faris.** Best Standard: Buckeye Cherry Sundae, **Stephany Howitt.** Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Chocolate Warrior', **Juanita Mallory.** Best Design, **Marian Schaaf.** Design Sweepstakes, **Dona Stilwell.**

SOCIÉTE DES SAINTPAULIA DE MONTRÉAL, MONTREAL – Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Frosted Whisper, Powwow, Sansoucy' Coco; Best in Show/Best Standard: Perreault Rosé, **Colette Perreault.** 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Aca's Tornado, Picasso, Wild Irish Rose; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Boo Man, Little Pro, Ness' Crinkle Blue; Best Semiminiature: Ness' Cranberry Swirl; Best Miniature: Rob's Zippity Doo; Best Design; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Annie Simard.** Best Trailer: Cirelda, **Nancy Robitaille.** Best Species: *Saintpaulia grandifolia #299,* **Francine Houde.** Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Golddigger', **Marie Gagnon.** Design Sweepstakes, **Johanne Bordeleau.**

SOUTH COAST AVS AND TUSTANA AVS, CA – Winners: Best in Show/Best Standard: Marshlands; Best Semiminiature: Little Pro; Best Gesneriad: *Sinningia* 'White Sprite'; Best Miniature: Orchard's Bumble Magnet; Best Trailer: Wood Trail; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Leonard Re.** Best Species: *Saintpaulia ionantha* Mather, **Jacquie Eisenhut.** Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Elaine Re.**

SWEET WATER AVS, NY – Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Aca's Summer Parfait, Apache Freedom, Maas' Janet; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Blue Silhouette, Little Pro, Rob's Gizmo; Best Gesneriad: *Petrocosmea flaccida*; Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Carolyn Klein.** 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Optimara Van Gogh, Rebel's Blue Lake, Rebel's Splatter Kake, **William Paauwe.** Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Antique Rose, Rob's Ruff Stuff, Sassy Sister; Best Miniature: Tiny Moon Goddess, **Nancy Platnick.** Best in Show/Best Standard: Rose Buddies; Best Trailer: Perk Up; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Joyce Rodler.** Best Semiminiature: Rob's Outer Orbit; Best Species: *Saintpaulia grandifolia #299*, **Jeanette Haynal.**

THIMBLE ISLANDS AVS, CT – Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Frozen in Time, Enchanted April, Kathe Denise; Best in Show/Best Standard: Frozen in Time; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Buzz Clem.** Best Semiminiature: Little Axel; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Falling Star', **Dick Bower.** Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Charlene Boyce.**

UNPREDICTABLES AVC, MO – Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Missouri Pride, Royal Knight, Aca's Red Face; Best in Show/Best Miniature: Texas Space Dust; Best Standard: Aca's Red Face; Best Gesneriad: *Chirita sinensis*; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Fred Inbody.** 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: *Saintpaulia confusa, Saintpaulia grandifolia, Saintpaulia ionantha*; Best Species: *Saintpaulia magungensis* var. *minima*, **Dick Faris.** Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Scooter, Rob's Heat Wave, Ness' Crinkle Blue; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Scooter, **Patricia Inbody.** 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Crinkle Blue, Rob's Fuddy Duddy, Rob's Little Pueblo, **Wilma Wolverton.** Best Trailer: Linda Darnell; Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Sue Hill.**

WEST TEXAS AVS, TX – Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Frosted Whisper, Gemcraft Pink Pearl, Blue Puff; Best Trailer: Ramblin' Show Stopper; Best Species: *Saintpaulia rupicola*; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Iced Amethyst Showoff', **Lea Geers.** Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Petite Jewel, Rob's Rinky Dink, Rob's Squeeze Toy; Best Miniature: Petite Jewel, **Jerry Geers.** 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Denim Demon, Rob's Slap Happy; Rob's Calypso Beat; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Calypso Beat, **Darryl Burton.** Best in Show/Best Standard: Wrangler's El Diablo; Best Design, **Marge Savage.**

A New Union County Chapter Collection Class and Awards for Max W. Maas Hybrids

by Walther H. Ott
Union County (NJ) Chapter of AVSA

A new collection class and new award rosettes for Max W. Maas hybrids were introduced by the Union County (NJ) Chapter of AVSA at its 50th Anniversary show and plant sale on March 19 and 20, 2004, in Scotch Plains, New Jersey.

The description of this new class, as presented in the show schedule for the Horticultural Division, was as follows:

"Class 2. - Union County Chapter, AVSA, collection of three different named varieties, all hybridized by Max W. Maas. Need not be registered. Each plants must score 90 or more points to be eligible for the UCC first or second rosette."

At the 2004 show, posters describing the new UCC class were displayed flat on the show table directly in front of the exhibited collections (Fig. 1).

The wordings on the posters were as follows:

"A NEW COLLECTION CLASS FOR OUR 50TH ANNIVERSARY SHOW UNION COUNTY CHAPTER, A.V.S.A. COLLECTION OF THREE NAMED MAX W. MAAS VARIETIES"

The special rosette awards for this new collection class were a UCC First (purple) rosette and a UCC Second (red) rosette (Fig. 2). A picture of an African violet blossom appeared on the rosette buttons. The wordings on the white middle ribbons were as follows, in gold letters:

"BEST COLLECTION OF THREE DIFFERENT MAX W. MAAS ORIGINATIONS - UNION COUNTY CHAPTER - AVSA" and "SECOND BEST COLLECTION OF THREE DIFFERENT MAX W. MAAS ORIGINATIONS - UNION COUNTY CHAPTER - AVSA"

At our 2004 show, three collections were exhibited in this new class. One collection won only blue ribbons and was awarded the new UCC purple rosette for Best Maas Collection (Fig. 3). 'Maas' Dorothy' in this collection, was named Third Best Maas Origination. In another collection in this class, 'Maas' Walther' was named Second Best Maas Origination. A 'Maas' Dorothy', in Class 6 for specimen plants, was named Best Maas Origination.

The introduction of the UCC Collection class for Maas hybrids at our 50th Anniversary Show in 2004 was another step in our chapter's long history of memorializing the hybridization accomplishments of Max W. Maas (AVM July/August 1987, pgs 35, 36). This new UCC class in our show schedule now provides a special way to show many of the 26 new Maas varieties that were selected and named from the last seedlings hybridized by Max W. Maas (AVM May/June 2000, pgs 38, 39). In addition, the older Maas hybrids that are registered can be exhibited in the new UCC class as well as in our show Class I for AVSA collections of registered varieties.

Cheryl in Violetland, or Why A Novice Like Me Went to Judges School

by Cheryl Johnston • Dallas, Texas

"If you don't know where you are going, you'll probably end up somewhere else." Lewis Carroll (1832-1898)

I love this quote from Alice and Wonderland. I love it so much I launch each new school year by cracking my new students across their teen addled brows with it. Not only do I love the quote, I need it as a constant reminder to make a plan, work the plan, stay the course, and keep my eye on the goal. It is something that guides my life. Without these measures, I would certainly fragment, disintegrate, and float off into the ether. It is the way I am; anybody who knows me well can corroborate this information.

After attending an African violet show a few years ago, the idea of showing my violets popped into my head and wouldn't pop out. I wanted to grow African violets that I could show. I didn't want to just show plants, I wanted blue ribbons. Actually, I wanted plants so beautiful that viewing would be an exhilarating, breath-taking experience. Something like seeing the Grand Canyon. Well, that describes where I wanted to go, but I had no idea how to get there.

Step one of my plan for success was to do a violet inventory. At that point in history, I had seven violets sitting on my window sill, but four of those were NOIDs. Ah ha! I needed more violets. I figured that with ten named violets, I might grow one that would be a winner. I placed an order to Rob's Violet Barn. I took the special package deal: ten violets (Rob's choice), thirty dollars. For good measure, I ordered a few episcias.

While searching for violet vendors on the internet, I discovered violet chat groups, so I joined a few. Joining a club was the next step, so I joined two: Denton then Fort Worth. I would have gotten involved in the Dallas clubs if it weren't so scary to drive in Dallas. My plan was taking shape.

My violet collection grew off the kitchen window sill onto a plastic snap-together shelf in front of a bigger window in our laundry room/pantry. Then it grew on to the pantry shelves which were progressively fitted with lights. Who needs a pantry when you live so close to the Sonic? Sonic, by the way, sells frozen treats in containers which can be used to start violets.

As it does, time marched on, and I entered my first show-not just any show, but the State Show. This event was doubly exciting for me as I was allowed to serve as a clerk. For the clerking job I was told to stand away from the judges, but close enough to help as a judge may require. During the judging, I saw that the judges considered more than just the big head of blooms. I went home from that show just thrilled; not only had each of the eight plants I had taken won a blue ribbon, I had gotten to rub elbows with really knowledgeable violet growers. These people had the knowledge that only comes from years of experience.

> *"Curiouser and curiouser!" Cried Alice (she was so much surprised, that for the moment she quite forgot how to speak good English). ...And she went on planning to herself how she would manage it.*

After my first show, I began to wonder. Why had one beautiful plant gotten a blue ribbon and the one sitting right next to it, looking equally beautiful, gotten a blue and was moved to the winners table? For some of the plants, it was evident, but for others it was not. How had the judges come to some of their conclusions? Was it just their personal preference? Didn't a full head of blooms always mean a prize winning plant? How did they know which one to pick? There must be other factors, besides blooming, that make a plant a winner. I figured that knowing what judges know would help me be a better grower. It was with this thought in mind that I decided I would go to judges' school. How could I show violets without knowing the criteria for judging?

I know some people might think it odd, that a novice like me would sign up to go to judges' school; heck I was a bit embarrassed to sign up myself. The attributes of a judge include knowledge, judgment, experience, fairness, courage, tact, and kindness. I didn't have every one of those; however I felt that with time and a little effort I could gain them. Additionally, I had the following qualifications covered. I was a member of AVSA, I had proof of winning three blue ribbons, and I had at least 25 varieties of African violets with 15 being registered (Boy, did I have that last one covered). I was ready to go to school!

I looked at it this way, becoming a judge had to be a great way to grow better plants. In consideration of the fact that making the grade as a Master Judge would take a minimum of 24 years, I figured I had better get with the program if I wanted to make it while I was still allowed to drive.

I am now student judge. This is like being an apprentice. I can serve on a panel with two other very experienced judges. Up to this point, I have never even been asked to serve on a judging panel, but some day I will. I think I will be ready because I practice daily: rating my plants against the scale of points used in the judges handbook. Now I can consider the point scale when buying plants as candidates for showing. Going to judges' school has enabled me to focus on plant standards and use grooming practices for all my plants. Judging my own plants is helping me become more confident in my abilities to raise show-worthy plants.

If you have never given any thought to becoming a judge, you should. Not only will you improve your growing abilities, you get to work with the greatest people, and sometimes their vast experience rubs off a bit on you. At the minimum, buy a copy of the *AVSA Handbook for African Violet Growers, Exhibitors* , from the AVSA office. In addition to the plant evaluation guide, this book explains how to make a show schedule and how to set up a show. It has information on plant propagation, pests, and diseases. If you are ever planning to show plants, it is a must have, must read book. If you have internet access, you might really enjoy reading an article from African Violet Magazine May/June1993 the BEGINNERS COLUMN: BLUE RIBBONS?? A Beginner's Guide to Judging, By Joyce and Kent Stork, http://www.avsa.org/AVMFiles/AVJudging-Beginner.pdf. This is an excellent article and will help you set your growing goals.

Remember, if you don't know where you want to go, how you will know how to get there?

THE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC.
STATEMENTS OF ASSETS, LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS – MODIFIED CASH BASIS
12/31/04

ASSETS

CURRENT ASSETS:	
Cash and cash equivalents	$ 23,440
Investments	106,259
Miscellaneous receivables	–
Inventory	14,871
Prepaid expenses	11,089
Total current assets	155,659
PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT, net of accumulated depreciation of $121,748	73,453
OTHER ASSETS:	
Reorganization costs net of accumulated amortization of $4,880	–
PERMANENT RESTRICTED ASSETS:	
Investments	32,500
Total assets	$261,612

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

CURRENT LIABILITIES:	
Payroll and sales tax liabilities	$ 1,831
Deferred advertising income	1,908
Deferred membership fees	97,500
Deferred life memberships	117,260
Deferred income, future conventions	4,075
Deferred revenue - other	6,079
Total current liabilities	228,653
NEW ASSETS:	
Unrestricted:	
Operating	-115,851
Board designated - Convention	9,219
Board designated - Boyce Edens	32,113
Board designated - Hudson Awards	1,525
Property and Equipment	73,453
Total unrestricted net assets	459
Permanently restricted	32,500
Total net assets	32,959
Total liabilities and net assets	$261,612

Russian Hybrid Collection offered in Minneapolis

The Russian hybrid African violet leaves caused quite a frenzy in Tucson. They brought in a tremendous amount of money at the luncheon auction. Libbie Glembocki at Bluebird Greenhouses, Apex, NC (919-362-0530 or http://www.bluebirdgreenhouse.com) was the lucky recipient of the leaves for propagation purposes. Several other AVSA commercial members now have stock from these plants.

Vladimir Kalgin and his lovely wife Tatiana who come to the AVSA conventions from Moscow, Russia, donated the leaves. They are now donating three very generous Awards for a collection of three of their AVSA registered Russian Standard hybrids. Winner of the Collection Award will receive $300, Second place gets $200, and Third takes home $100. This news is spreading, so call your favorite African violet vendor today and be a lucky winner.!

A Year of Growing

by Kathy Garbarino

As editor of the New York State AVS Empire Violet Magazine, I featured articles written by my 5th grade class.

The class has been learning about tissue culture as an alternative method of propagation. They were successful in tissue culturing African violet leaves. After the big experiment, they were able to see the process done professionally on a field trip to the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry with Dr. Charles Maynard. The class continued this study throughout the year with many scientific applications to this very hefty project, along with the growing of *Streptocarpus* plants for the Syracuse AVS show.

As a final culminating activity, each member of the class contributed to the magazine, either relating their experiences, researching and writing about an African violet-related subject, giving an interview, or making a poem or cartoon.

BIOTECHNOLOGY COMES TO THE CLASSROOM

by Gabrielle Huther

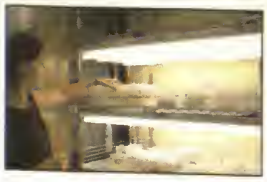
My "budding" classmates and I performed tissue culture with our teacher, Mrs. Garbarino, and we're only in 5th grade! We did projects, experiments, and to top it all off....we got to go on a really cool field trip!

Last summer, my teacher, Mrs. Garbarino, tried tissue culture for the very first time with Dr. Charles Maynard. She said it was fun. So when she started teaching this year, she taught us. We learned very quickly for our age!

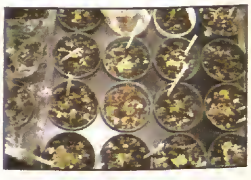
First, we learned the vocabulary words needed for tissue culture. After learning our vocabulary words, we started making the media that the tissue culture needed to grow on. We added the hormones and the nutrients to help the plants grow. After pouring the media and measuring for the jars, we sterilized the water, and it was ready. After that, Mrs. Garbarino showed our principal, Mrs. Lisa Anderson, how to perform tissue culture. Mrs. Anderson demonstrated the process for us. Then, it was our turn! We washed our hands and got ready to start the great tissue culture experiment. We made sure that everything was sterile with a 70% alcohol spray. Then we cleaned, disinfected, and rinsed the leaves, cut them into sections, and put the pieces on the medium. No accidents, and no contamination. Then we taped the jars, and we were done!

On October 8, 2004, we took a field trip to the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry to visit Dr. Charles Maynard and Linda Polin, Dr. Maynard's lab manager. Ms. Polin, along with others at the university, discovered how to cure the blight that was harming and killing the Chestnut trees in our area.

She explained to us that tissue culture has a big importance in the world. Then she showed us the chestnut tree clones that were worth a quarter of a million dollars. That's $250,000.00 each! She then showed us how tissue culture is done professionally under a laminar flow hood.



Dr. Maynard showed us the autoclave for sterilization. He looked at our homemade tissue cultures that we brought with us to show him, and he saw that none had contamination. He told the class, "Great job!" After that, we all got Venus Flytraps as a gift!



We continued growing the clones in our classroom with their e-mail help throughout the year! We did have success and have grown out several plants from this procedure!

Thank you, Dr. Maynard and Linda Polin for all you did for us. We won't forget you.

So, What Is Tissue Culture, Anyway?

by Mary Baker

So, do you want to know more about what we've been doing all year?

We've been learning about tissue culture! Tissue culture is a technique used to grow plants on an artificial substance from tissues or pieces of a plant material to promote cell division to generate new plants. Take small pieces of plants such as leaves, stems, buds, flowers, or seeds, and grow them on a media that has the correct balance of chemicals, growth hormones, and nutrients. The little pieces of tissue will reproduce clones or replicas of the single parent plant.

People use tissue culture because they can mass propagate very valuable plants. They can culture disease-free plants as well. We can also speed up production of new varieties of plants. Everything must be totally sterile. We perform tissue culture by making media and then by growing sterile plant parts on it. We always use a clean area and prepare the leaves by cleaning them with alcohol. Then we disinfect the leaves with a 10% bleach solution for 10 minutes. After the bleach solution, you rinse the leaves with sterilized water.

Next, get the leaf ready for placing on the media. First, cut the edges and the middle vein off the leaf. Then, cut the leaf into sections. After cutting, place 3-4 sections of

the leaves in different areas on the media. Tape the top of the jar securely so that it doesn't become contaminated. The leaves will start to swell in 2 – 4 weeks. After about 4 – 5 weeks, callus, or unorganized cells, will develop, and soon small plantlets will be visible.

Clones are tissue cultured plants that are micro-propagated cuttings, genetically identical to the mother and daughter plants; which is what we produced! Do you think you can do this? If you are interested, go to www.kitchenculturekit.com to learn how you can do it too! Good Luck!

Ex-plant transplanted from media

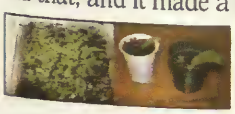
Final separated plant on its way to becoming a mature African violet

Streps - R - Us

by Samantha Samek

This year, Mrs. Garbarino's 5th grade class is doing many projects. One of them is growing *Streptocarpus* plants for the African Violet Society of Syracuse's spring show.

Mrs. Garbarino got *Streptocarpus* seeds from Frank Davies, of the British *Streptocarpus* Society, all the way from England! She grew the seeds until they were able to be transplanted; then we re-potted the little plants into small white solo cups. Within the first month, we had to transplant them into bigger cups. They grew a lot! The class did an experiment according to an article by Dale Martens, a famous *Streptocarpus* hybridizer. She recommended re-potting every two weeks for the first eight weeks of a plant's life. The class did that, and it made a big difference!



* These pictures were all taken on the same day- 2/14/05.
left-The original seedling pan, middle- one transplant, and right-a plant that was repotted once every two weeks for two months.

Our class learned many facts on the way. My classmate, Gabrielle, had the longest leaf, but she accidentally broke it. She felt terrible. Then, the next day she noticed a new baby leaf! We discovered that when one leaf is broken or clipped, more energy goes into producing another baby plant!

We e-mailed Dale Martens with our situation and photos, and she responded with this advice!

"Kathy,

Wow! I'm so impressed with what your students have done! You must be very proud of them!

Also, you have no idea how tickled I am to see my advice taken about the every-two-weeks transplanting schedule. It certainly does make a difference, and your students proved it.

The other thing that I do with streps when they are eight weeks old is to remove the upper 1/3 of the leaf. This stimulates new growth, and your class proved that, too, even if at first by Gabrielle's accident! Thank you so very much for sharing the photos with me!

Dale"

I decided to clip my leaf too, and John joined me. Our plants grew and grew, and new leaves appeared quickly.

The show was on May 7th and May 8th. Everyone won a first place blue rosette ribbon! Mrs. Garbarino brought the plants and ribbons back to school so we could bring them home to show our parents. For some of the students (including me), this was to be their first blue ribbon. We were thrilled! The entire class had their picture taken with their blue ribbons for the cover of the magazine. At the end of the day, we took our plants home to keep forever. We loved the year-long projects and experiments. The class is going to miss Mrs. Garbarino because she is retiring, and we are going to sixth grade. Even though we are leaving, we will always have the memories of cloning plants and growing streps with our favorite teacher.

WORTH REPEATING...from 1994

Make a Travel Case for Your Violets

Maryann Switzer • Chesterfield, MO

Going to the AVSA convention is a big thrill for African violet enthusiasts. To fully participate in the convention, one needs to enter plants in the show. But many conventioneers say, "I can't bring plants, I'm traveling by plane." In this article, I will show you how to put together a box for easy transportation of small show plants. I fixed up such a box and took it to the 1993 Lancaster convention. I was able to take two semiminiature and four miniature African violets. The box fit under the seat on both of my flights. I hadn't been worried about the first leg of the journey from St. Louis to Pittsburgh. But from Pittsburgh to Lancaster, we were to take a tiny Jetstream 31. My box fit under the seat perfectly. We encountered turbulence on both flights, but the plants arrived with absolutely no damage to blossoms or foliage.

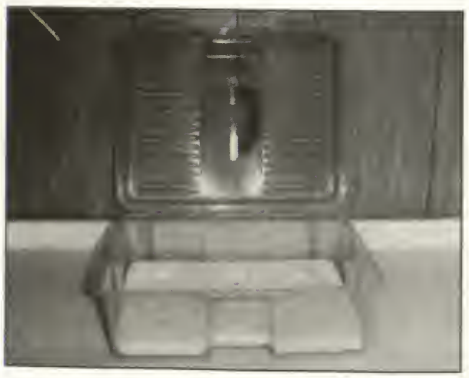
Materials Needed

1 Rubbermaid Keepers Snap Case (17.25" x 14")
1 Plastic luggage handle (Brainerd Mfg. Co.)
2 Brass mending plates 1/2" x 2" (Bralnerd Mfg. Co.)
4 Brass round head machine screws 6/32 x 1/2
4 Brass machine screw hex nuts 6/32
4 split ring lock washers to fit screws
11-1/2" x 15" styrofoam beadboard insulation - 1 inch thick
2 yards 3/4" elastic

Method of Construction

I bought the luggage handle, hardware, and beadboard insulation at the hardware store. Look at the photo of the finished box to see how to center the handle on the lid of the box. Using an ice pick, scratch marks where you want the screws to go. Try to lineup the holes in the handle, hardware, and the mending plate as closely as possible. Then use an electric drill with a fine drill bit to make the holes for the screws. The handle is placed on top of the box, the mending plate on the inside. The screws pass from the handle holes through the plastic lid and then through the mending plate. A lock washer is placed on the screw, and then the hex nut is screwed on and tightened.

Next, you must cut a piece of the styrofoam beadboard insulation to fit the bottom of the box snugly. First, I cut a paper pattern to fit the bottom of the box, and then used that pattern to draw the shape I needed onto the beadboard with a marker. The easiest way to cut the beadboard is to hold a yardstick where you want to cut a long straight line, and then use a utility knife to score that line. Then pick up the beadboard, thumbs on each side of the score line, and snap it apart. The rounded corners you can just break off with your fingers. The bottom of the case has an edge that is set back. Use the utility knife to cut out this piece. Next, you need to decide what size pots you are taking and how many holes to make. I decided which plants were going to show, set them in the box, and traced around the pots. I find that a hole 1-3/4' across holds a 2" pot, and a hole 1-7/8" across holds a 2-1/4" pot. I started to cut the holes with an X-acto knife, but the blade didn't cut deep enough, so I finished cutting the holes with a fine-toothed thin blade knife usually used for slicing tomatoes. If you feel that your beadboard isn't tight enough in the box, and might move in transit, affix it to the bottom of the case with some double-sided carpet tape.



The Rubbermaid Keepers Snap Case has two latches, but they are not strong. I use two pieces of elastic to keep the case tightly closed (see photo). Measure enough elastic to go around the case and hold it snugly. Overlap the elastic about an inch and sew securely by hand. Your case is now complete.

These Rubbermaid Snap Cases come in several transparent colors. Both the lavender and pink boxes look especially nice when filled with blooming African violets. I think the transparency of the box has several advantages over a cardboard box. By being able to see what you are carrying, people avoid bumping into you. Also, they can see the African violets. Many people don't know that African violets come in miniature sizes. While in the airport I was asked numerous questions about African violets and wished good luck in the show. Never pass up the opportunity to spread the good word about African violets and AVSA.

Conclusion

After the show, I sold four of my plants. (I knew that I had duplicates at home.) I stripped most of the leaves off of the

other two plants. Then I had room in my box to take home the many plants and leaves which I had bought in the commercial salesroom.

I hope that many of you will make these travel boxes. They only take a quick shopping trip and about 30 minutes of your time. I look forward to seeing many members bring these boxes to the next convention. The more plants that are entered, the prettier the show will be.

And you can't win if you don't enter!

Editor's Note: I received a letter from Maryann suggesting that I run this article again. She read Laurel Goretsky's reference to national show-winner Kathy Lahti's box for transporting her plants to show, which had been made following the directions in this original article. Maryann thought other AVSA members might want to utilize this method as well.

PHOTO 2. Plants in place

Convention 2006 Minneapolis, Minnesota Shopping Experience Like No Other

by Ruth Bann

Shoppers fill the aisles on any given day. They come from all over the world to view this phenomenon, the Mall of America at 60 East Broadway in Bloomington. It is a one of a kind mall. It sits on the site of the old Met Stadium that housed the Minnesota Twins and the Minnesota Vikings.

It was August 1992 when the Mall opened its doors for the first time. The Mall is three stories high and has a total of 520 stores, many restaurants, a Chapel, Camp Snoopy, and Underwater Adventures. You actually can walk through the fish tank to view the sharks and other fish. Some of the larger stores in the mall are Nordstrom, Bloomingdale's, Macy's, and Sears.

The Mall offers shopping, food, entertainment, and a chance to see a movie, ride a roller coaster, meet your favorite celebrity, and even build a LEGO castle. The Mall of America is now one of the most visited destinations in the United States.

From a Metro Transit bus stop near the hotel, you can take a 6-mile bus ride directly to the mall or ride the free shuttle from the Sheraton Hotel. The Mall of America is a fascinating place to spend some free time during the Convention.

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Moon in Taurus

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Moon in Gemini

Barren and dry, airy and masculine. Used for destroying noxious growths, weeds and pests, and for cultivation.

Moon in Cancer

Very fruitful and moist, watery and feminine. This is the most productive sign, used extensively for planting and irrigation.

Moon in Leo

Barren and dry, fiery and masculine. This is the most barren sign, used only for killing weeds and for cultivation.

Moon in Virgo

Barren and moist, earthy and feminine. Good for cultivation and destroying weeds and pests.

Moon in Libra

Semi-fruitful and moist, airy and masculine. Used for planting many crops and producing good pulp growth and roots. A very good sign for flowers and vines. Also used for seeding hay, corn fodder, etc.

Moon in Scorpio

Very fruitful and moist, watery and feminine. Nearly as productive as Cancer; used for the same purposes. Especially good for vine growth and sturdiness.

Moon in Sagittarius

Barren and dry, fiery and masculine. Used for planting onions, seeding hay, and for cultivation.

Moon in Capricorn

Productive and dry, earthy and feminine. Used for planting potatoes, tubers, etc.

Moon in Aquarius

Barren and dry, airy and masculine. Used for cultivation and destroying noxious growths, weeds, and pests.

Moon in Pisces

Very fruitful and moist, watery and feminine. Used along with Cancer and Scorpio, especially good for root growth.

September Moon Table

Date	Sign	Element	Nature	Phase
1 Thu.	Leo	Fire	Barren	4th
2 Fri. 3:56 pm	Virgo	Earth	Barren	4th
3 Sat.	Virgo	Earth	Barren	New 2:45 pm
4 Sun.	Virgo	Earth	Barren	1st
5 Mon. 3:52 am	Libra	Air	Semi-fruitful	1st
6 Tue.	Libra	Air	Semi-fruitful	1st
7 Wed. 2:10 pm	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	1st
8 Thu.	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	1st
9 Fri. 10:03 pm	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	1st
10 Sat.	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	1st
11 Sun.	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	2nd 7:37 am
12 Mon. 2:56 am	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruitful	2nd
13 Tue.	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruitful	2nd
14 Wed. 5:02 am	Aquarius	Air	Barren	2nd
15 Thu.	Aquarius	Air	Barren	2nd
16 Fri. 5:24 am	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	2nd
17 Sat.	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	Full 10:01 pm
18 Sun. 5:43 am	Aries	Fire	Barren	3rd
19 Mon.	Aries	Fire	Barren	3rd
20 Tue. 7:47 am	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruitful	3rd
21 Wed.	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruitful	3rd
22 Thu. 1:07 pm	Gemini	Air	Barren	3rd
23 Fri.	Gemini	Air	Barren	3rd
24 Sat. 10:10 pm	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	3rd
25 Sun.	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	4th 2:41 am
26 Mon.	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	4th
27 Tue. 10:03 am	Leo	Fire	Barren	4th
28 Wed.	Leo	Fire	Barren	4th
29 Thu. 10:44 pm	Virgo	Earth	Barren	4th
30 Fri.	Virgo	Earth	Barren	4th

October Moon Table

Date	Sign	Element	Nature	Phase
1 Sat.	Virgo	Earth	Barren	4th
2 Sun. 10:24 am	Libra	Air	Semi-fruitful	4th
3 Mon.	Libra	Air	Semi-fruitful	New 6:28 am
4 Tue. 8:03 pm	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	1st
5 Wed.	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	1st
6 Thu.	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	1st
7 Fri. 3:28 am	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	1st
8 Sat.	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	1st
9 Sun. 8:43 am	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruitful	1st
10 Mon.	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruitful	2nd 3:01 pm
11 Tue. 12:05 pm	Aquarius	Air	Barren	2nd
12 Wed.	Aquarius	Air	Barren	2nd
13 Thu. 2:05 pm	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	2nd
14 Fri.	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	2nd
15 Sat. 3:39 pm	Aries	Fire	Barren	2nd
16 Sun.	Aries	Fire	Barren	2nd
17 Mon. 6:04 pm	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruitful	Full 8:14 am
18 Tue.	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruitful	3rd
19 Wed. 10:44 pm	Gemini	Air	Barren	3rd
20 Thu.	Gemini	Air	Barren	3rd
21 Fri.	Gemini	Air	Barren	3rd
22 Sat. 6:41 am	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	3rd
23 Sun.	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	3rd
24 Mon. 5:48 pm	Leo	Fire	Barren	4th 9:17 pm
25 Tue.	Leo	Fire	Barren	4th
26 Wed.	Leo	Fire	Barren	4th
27 Thu. 6:28 am	Virgo	Earth	Barren	4th
28 Fri.	Virgo	Earth	Barren	4th
29 Sat. 6:15 pm	Libra	Air	Semi-fruitful	4th
30 Sun.	Libra	Air	Semi-fruitful	4th
31 Mon.	Libra	Air	Semi-fruitful	4th

Reprinted with permission from Llewellyn's 2005 Moon Sign Book, published by Llewellyn Publications, ISBN 0-7387-0124-6

MINUTES ANNUAL MEETING
AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC.
April 23, 2005 • Fort Mitchell, Kentucky

The Annual Business Meeting of the African Violet Society of America, Inc. was called to order by Third Vice President, Ron Davidson, at 2:50 PM in the Yeomans and Friars Hall of The Drawbridge Inn, Fort Mitchell, Kentucky. The invocation was given by Sue Ramser followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Ron Davidson presented the President, Janet Riemer.

Nancy Hayes, Secretary, reported a quorum was present.

Nancy Hayes, Secretary, read the Standing Rules for the Annual Meeting, and they were adopted.

President Riemer appointed Rev. David Buttram Chair of the Committee to Approve the 2005 Annual Meeting Minutes, with Christel Collier and Dr. Elmer Godeny as committee members. Judy Carter was appointed Timekeeper. Shirley Berger, Chair of the 2004 Committee to Approve Minutes, reported the minutes were approved.

Mary Boland, Vice Chair of the Resolutions Committee, presented the Courtesy Resolution, which is attached. The Resolution was adopted.

Mary Lou Harden, Chair of the Bylaws Committee, moved on behalf of the Bylaws Committee to amend Article V, Section 5b as follows:

The chairman shall be elected by the Executive Committee prior to the annual convention. Election of the other members shall be by nomination from the floor at the first meeting of the Board of Directors during the annual convention. The term of the committee shall begin upon election.

This amendment was published in the African Violet Magazine and requires a 2/3 rising vote. The vote was a 2/3 rising vote in the affirmative, and the Bylaws have been amended.

Mary Lou Harden, Chair of the Bylaws Committee, moved on behalf of the Bylaws Committee to amend Article X as follows:

PLANT REGISTRATION AND MASTER PLANT LIST: shall be responsible for (a) all registration of *Saintpaulia* in compliance with the *International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants,* and (b) compilation of the *Master List of Species and Cultivars* and its annual supplements.

This amendment was published in the African Violet Magazine and requires a 2/3 rising vote. The vote was a 2/3 rising vote in the affirmative, and the Bylaws have been amended.

The Nominating Committee Chair, Harry Weber, presented the following report:

President – Linda Owens
First Vice President – Joyce Stork
Second Vice President – Ron Davidson
Third Vice President – Linda Golubski
Secretary – Nancy Hayes
Treasurer – Sue Ramser
Directors to serve until the close of the 2008 Annual Meeting:
Linda Abplanalp – North Carolina
John Carter - Oklahoma
Randy Deutsch – South Dakota
Blanca Fuster – Texas
Andrea Worrell – Illinois

No nominations were received from the floor, and the officers and directors were elected by voice vote.

President Riemer announced that the installation of officers and directors shall take place at the banquet.

President Riemer recognized the retiring officers, directors, and committee chairs. Officers, Jack Wilson, Past President and, Gary Gordon, Treasurer, and Directors, Byron Borck, David Buttram, Jan Davidson, Kathy Lahti, and Harry Weber. Committee Chairs, Carolee Carter, Membership and Promotion, Anne Nicholas, Library, Elinor Skelton, Resolutions, Linda Owens, Convention, Kent Stork, Commercial Activities, and Harry Weber, Ways and Means.

Sharon Johnson, 2006 Minneapolis, Minnesota Convention Chair, extended an invitation to the 2006 AVSA Convention and Show to be held at the Sheraton Hotel, May 28th through June 4th, 2006.

A list of deceased members from this past year was prepared by Mary Boland and read by President Riemer.

A letter from Anne Tinari, Past President, was read to the membership by President Riemer.

Linda Owens, newly elected President, announced that the Sunday Board meeting is cancelled. She announced the following committee chairs:

Affiliate – Beverly Promersberger
AVM Advertising – Judy Carter
Awards – Sue Hoffmann
Commercial Activities – Lynn Lombard
Commercial Sales and Exhibits – Kathy Bell
Convention – Joyce Stork
Finance – Jo Anne Martinez
Library – Tom Glembocki
Membership and Promotion – Adrienne Rieck
Nominating – Bill Foster
Plant Registration and Master List of Plants – Joseph Bruns
Publications – Barbara Pershing
Research – Dr. Jeff Smith
Show and Judges – Bill Foster
Annual Index – Bill Paauwe
Best Varieties and Honor Roll – Floyd Lawson
Booster Fund – Shirley Berger
Boyce Edens Research Fund – Marlene Buck
Building Maintenance Fund – Susan Hapner
Bylaws – Mary Lou Harden
Convention Manual – Joyce Stork
Courtesy – Anne Tinari
Internet – James Rubottom
Open Forum – Jack Wilson
Policies and Procedures – Nancy Hayes
Resolutions – Mary Boland
Salary – Joyce Stork
Scholarship – Dr. Elmer Godeny
Tally Time – Heather Menzel
Technology – John Carter
Vintage Violets – Barbara Elkin
Ways and Means – Janet Castiglione
Archivist – Janet Riemer
Webmaster – Jim Owens

The following announcements were made:

President Riemer announced that anyone interested in information and sample from our new AVM printer, Gulfstream Publishing, should see our AVM Editor, Ruth Rumsey.

Sue Hoffmann, Award Chair, requested nominations for Special Society Awards and continued support of awards for next year's convention show.

Dr. Elmer Godeny, Scholarship Committee Chair, requested the membership to encourage applications for the AVSA Scholarship Award. Students in undergraduate or graduate college programs interested in horticulture, floriculture, botany, or other plant related fields are eligible to apply. The application is on the web site.

Georgene Albrecht requested acknowledgment of the fine work our office employees give to the Society, Jenny Daugereau, Office Manager and Ruth Rumsey, AVM Editor.

Additionally, she requested the membership to submit articles to Ruth for the AVM.

As there was no further business to come before the Annual Meeting, the meeting was adjourned at 3:30 PM.

Nancy G. Hayes, Secretary

Christel Collier, Chair

Dr. Elmer Godeny

More About Propagation

by Keith Lind

Recently I have had to reduce my African violet growing activities, but I am still as passionate as ever about these plants. I have reduced my collection to a number of the more popular varieties, and this still allows me to carry out experiments from which I get a great deal of pleasure.

Over the years I have had some success growing plantlets from flower stalks by using the generally accepted method for doing so. This entails taking the selected flower stalk from a plant and removing the flowers and all but about 3/4 inch of the flower stalk leaving the two tiny leaves immediately below where the flowers were removed.

This short 3/4 inch stem is then planted in potting mix up to the base of the two leaves, preferably in a terrarium type enclosure. Depending on the variety and its ability to grow roots, a root will grow from the extreme lowest end of the stalk, and either one or two tiny plantlets will appear in the axils of the two leaves in anything from 6 to 12 months.

I have found that the small plantlets need to have the potting mix packed up around them in order to produce roots. Once the roots have developed and the plantlet or plantlets can be handled with safety, they can be repotted into individual pots.

I believe this method generally takes too long and feel there is a better way.

Begin as in the previous method but take away almost all of the flower stem (don't leave 2cm). Cut off one tiny leaf close to the axil of the leaf and main stem but not so close that it's likely to damage the nucleus of the new plant, thus still giving a chance for the one flower stalk to produce two new plants. The reason for removing one leaf is to avoid the two leaves curling and the very short stalk being forced up out of the potting mix.

The one small leaf attached to the short piece of main stem may be planted in the potting mix, and there it should remain. I find that under ideal conditions, tiny plantlets begin to show in less than 4 weeks, and once a crown can be seen, a number of roots begin to grow into the mix immediately below the crown.

Now, this I feel is the really exciting part. *Why waste one of the leaflets?*

By cutting or splitting the short piece of flower stalk in two and planting both the tiny leaves, the chances of getting two plantlets are doubled. This may seem complicated, but please try it. I'm sure you will gain as much pleasure from it as I have.

From *The African Violet*, publication of the AV Association of Australia, Inc.

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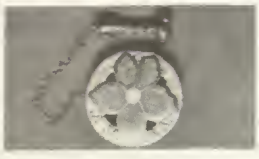

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G-234
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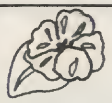

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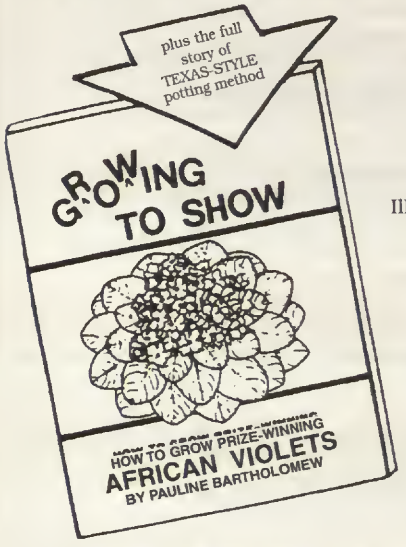
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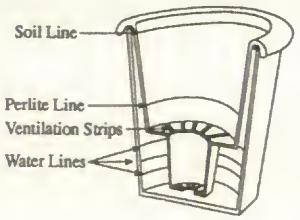

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